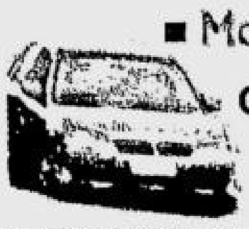

■ Motoring / C1
Crash course on racing

■ Opinion / A14
GMA: RP needs an experienced president

■ Across / A15
Lawmaker survives ambush

■ News/ A7
2 cops, 3 guards killed in shootout

■ World / A10
Kerry secures Democratic nomination

Tanong ng Bayan / A16
Mga babaeng pulitiko: Mas epektibo ba?

INQ
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TV
TV

Murder suspect running for mayor unopposed

By Jolene R. Bulambot, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Ruben Ecleo Jr. may be in jail on parricide charges, but there is no stopping the cult leader from again becoming mayor of San Jose town in Surigao del Norte's Dinagat Island, the base of his million-strong religious group.

The "supreme master" of the Philippine

MURDER / A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Palace gives Antonio conditional pardon

By Margaux Ortiz

FORMER gaming official Alberto "Ambet" Antonio, who was convicted for the murder of basketball star Arnulfo "Arnie" Tuadles in 1996, was released on parole at 8:30 last night after serving one-third of his jail term, according to sources at the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP).

PALACE/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, March 4, 2004 ★★★ 44 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 87 P18 website: www.inq7.net

SC: Poe qualified to run

'Da King' on SC ruling: Finally, I'm vindicated

By Christine O. Avendaño

"FINALLY, I was vindicated."

Thus declared Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday on learning that the Supreme Court had dismissed the disqualification case against him, clearing the way for his presidential run in the May 10 elections.

Poe gave his reaction while at his private office in Greenhills, San Juan, with Sen. Edgardo Angara and restaurant owner Carmelo Santiago, a staunch supporter of the film star, Angara said.

Several business leaders welcomed the court decision, expressing hope it would lift some of the political uncertainty that has hovered over the economy and kept the peso near its record low of 56.35 to the dollar.

Former Education Secretary Raul Roco, standard-bearer of Alyansa ng Pagasa, said the cloud of uncertainty hanging over the election had been cleared.

"The battle is now joined," Roco said. "People will have clear choices."

"But it can't be Gloria. The one who can replace Gloria is either Roco or FPJ," the ex-senator said in General Santos

'DA KING'/ A4

'Free as birds,' two detained officers surface

By Alcuin Papa

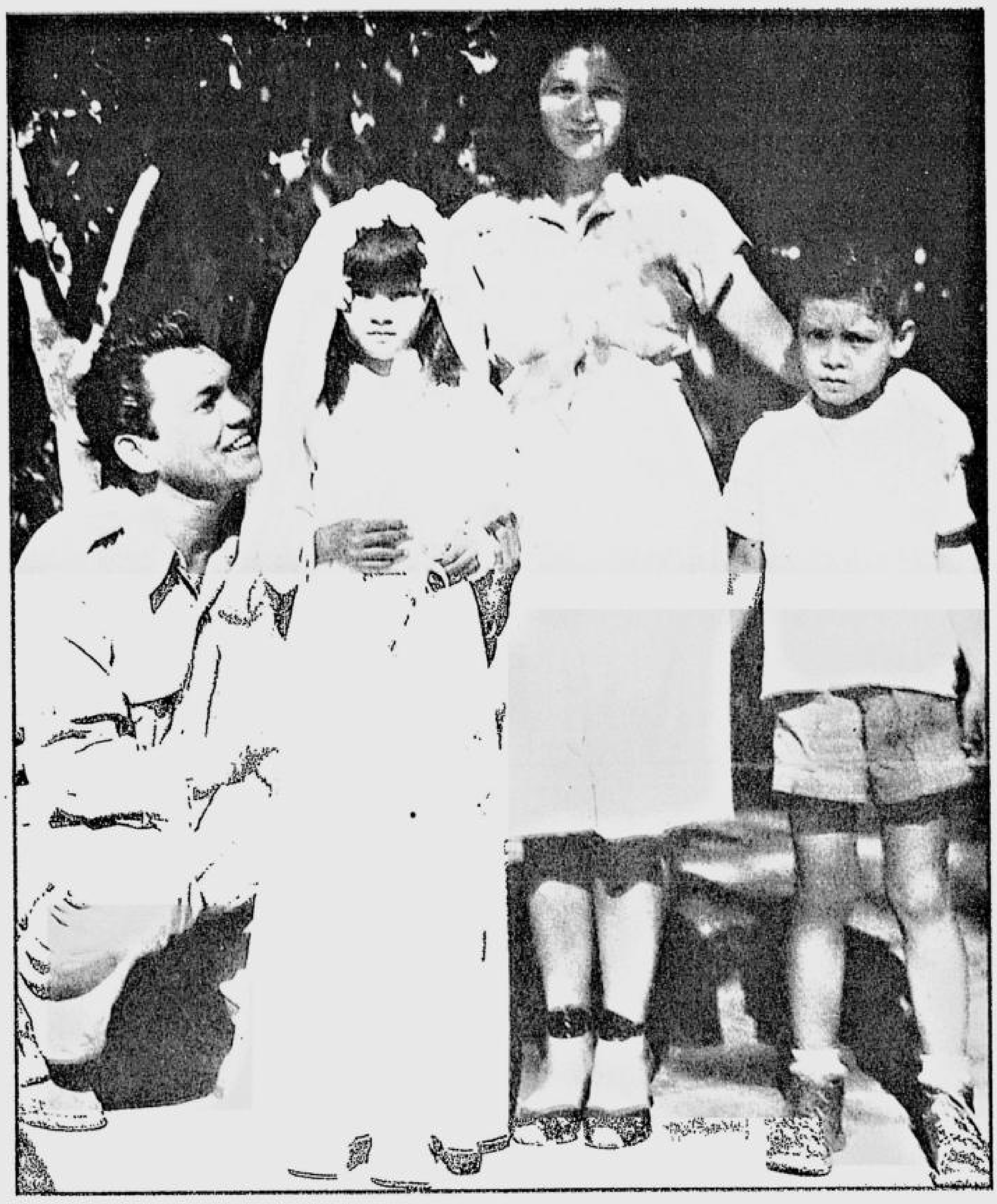
TWO of the three colonels supposedly arrested and detained by the military for recruiting reservists to join anti-government rallies showed up yesterday at the board room of the Quezon City Sports Club to conduct a press conference.

Asked later why Col. Ernie Amboy and Lt. Col. Edgardo de Castro were not in detention at Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio as he had announced Tuesday, Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said it was only yesterday that the two officers and Lt. Col. Nelson Eleazar were to be invited for questioning.

Lucero, chief of the Armed Forces Public Information Office, also denied saying that the AFP had earlier taken the three officers into custody.

At the hastily called press conference,

FREE AS BIRDS/ A4



A FILIPINO FAMILY. Elizabeth Poe, elder sister of presidential aspirant Fernando Poe Jr., showed the INQUIRER this photograph to prove that their father had recognized the actor as his child—the one condition that four "friends" of the Supreme Court required to prove legitimacy. The photo shows Elizabeth on the day of her first communion, the young Ronnie (FPJ's real name is Ronald Allan), and their parents Fernando Poe Sr. and Bessie Kelley. Bessie had inscribed the memento, dated June 15, 1946, for a friend: "Brick is a devoted father now. Doesn't he look it in this picture?" Elizabeth said her dad's pet name was from the comic strip hero Brick Bradford, portrayed by the elder Poe during the 1937 Manila Carnival.

High court votes 8-5 FPJ natural-born

IT WAS a victory for Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday, with the Supreme Court voting 8-5 with one abstention to throw out a petition seeking to disqualify him from the presidential race.

The high court upheld a previous ruling by the Commission on Elections declaring the standard-bearer of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino a natural-born Filipino and qualified to run for president.

A statement issued by the high court said the justices had ruled that the Comelec "did not abuse its discretion" in earlier dismissing the disqualification case against the opposition presidential candidate, thus declaring him "a natural-born citizen and qualified to run."

The ruling is subject to appeal.

The Supreme Court said it gave weight to the arguments of the four amici curiae (friends of the court)—retired SC Justice Vicente Mendoza, former 1986 Constitutional Commission member Fr. Joaquin Bernas S.J., former University of the Philippines College of Law Dean Merlin Magallona and UP law Prof. Ruben Balane—who said that FPJ was a natural-born Filipino under the 1935 Constitution "since his father (Allan F. Poe) was a Filipino as borne out by the evidence submitted in court."

Prior to the release of the verdict on the cliffhanger of a case, several hundred policemen, including SWAT teams armed with assault rifles, had ringed the Supreme Court building. Pro-Poe groups had earlier threatened to hold massive protest actions if the tribunal ruled against the movie idol.

Asked about the chances of the high tribunal overturning its verdict if the petitioners appealed for a reconsideration, Deputy Court Administrator Ismael Khan Jr. said the odds were slim: "*Dito, dahil may* clear majority *na, baka medyo mahirap.*"

Justice Jose Vitug penned the 53-page decision and he was joined in the majority by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justices Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Alicia Austria-Martinez, Romeo Callejo Sr. and

SC VOTES/ A4

Too early for GMA to celebrate, says analyst

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IT'S TOO early for President Macapagal-Arroyo to celebrate.

This was the response of political analyst Antonio Gatmaitan when asked to interpret the numbers in the latest Social Weather Stations survey which showed that Ms Macapagal had erased the nine-point lead of Fernando Poe Jr. in just two weeks, placing her in a statistical tie with the movie star.

Poe had led Ms Macapagal in the SWS survey of Jan. 28-Feb 6.

In the Feb. 17-25 survey, SWS said Ms Macapagal was the choice of 31.8 percent of 1,200 respondents who were asked who among the six official presidential candidates they would vote for if elections were held that week.

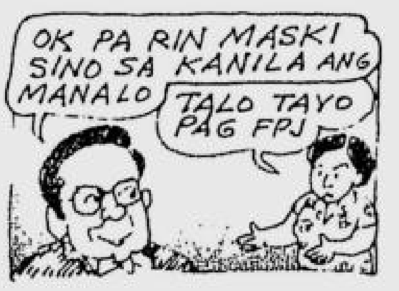
Poe was chosen by 30.5 percent of the respondents. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level.

Gatmaitan said the results of the SWS survey indicated a very tight presidential race. "It's anybody's ball game," said Gatmaitan, president of the Political Economic Applied Research Foundation.

He noted that Ms Macapagal had big support in the Visayas but Poe led in Metro Manila. He said the results showed that it was touch-and-go in Mindanao.

"Nobody has won (the presidency) by winning in the Visayas. Where Metro

TOO EARLY/ A6


OK PA RIN MASKI SINO SA KANILA ANG MANALO
TALO TAYO PAG FPJ

Chavit for GMA but wife for Roco

By TJ Burgonio

FORMER Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and his wife Evelyn are a couple in every way.

Well, almost.

Evelyn still seeks Chavit's counsel on most things, including political matters, but she is not supporting his candidate, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

CHAVIT'S/ A5

MYSTERY OVER

3 bodies recovered by divers from sunken SuperFerry 14

By Leila B. Salaverria
Metro
and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE BODIES of one male and two female adults were recovered by divers of the Philippine Coast Guard yesterday from a submerged portion of the gutted SuperFerry 14, bringing to four the number of fatalities in the disaster.

A total of 132 people are still missing although it is believed many may have been rescued by passing vessels but had not contacted the authorities, according to PCG commandant Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan.

The bodies, which were in the early stages of decomposition, remained unidentified as of press time.

Gosingnan said the bodies would be brought immediately to the PCG headquarters in Manila and then to a funeral parlor so their families could identify them.

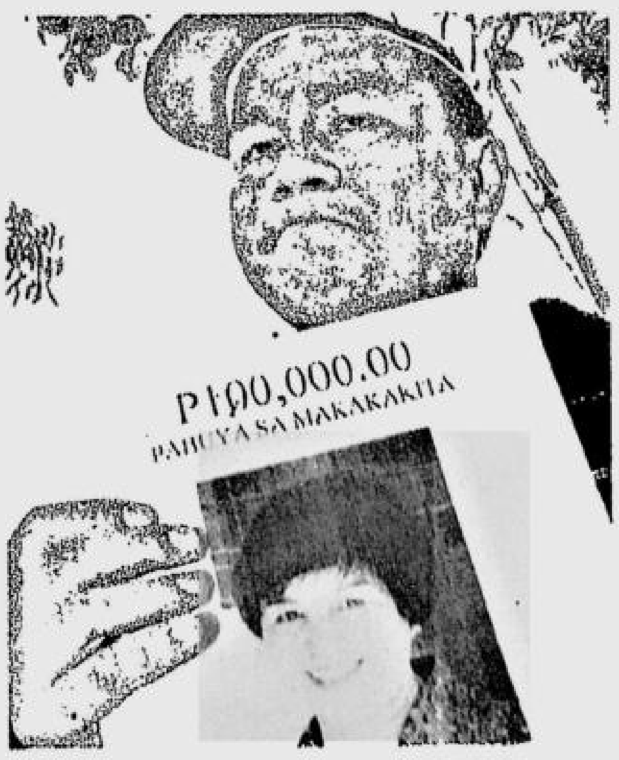
He said the bodies were recovered inside a bathroom, which was in the submerged part of the A-deck with the least amount of debris. He said the male fatality was clad in short pants and a T-shirt.

Salvage crews have searched nearly all of the wreck, but "one-third of the submerged portion of the vessel is covered in debris," Gosingan said. Most of the areas covered by debris were part of the tourist and cabin sections.

He said there was a possibility that many more bodies were buried under the debris.

The 10,192-ton inter-island ferry was sailing out of Manila Bay for Bacolod City on Friday when an explosion triggered a blaze. It was carrying 899 passengers and crew at the time.

3 BODIES/ A5



HAVE you seen her? Edward Leyco is circulating the photo of his missing mother with an announcement of a reward.

AFP

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with rains. Mindanao will be mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/04/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

NP bet: GMA or Roco

By Michael L. Ubac, Juliet L. Javellana, Cynthia D. Balana and Norman Bordadora

THE NACIONALISTA Party is inclined to support either President Macapagal-Arroyo or former Education Secretary Raul Roco in the May elections.

This was announced by Sen. Manuel Villar, who chairs the NP directorate, on Tuesday night during a dinner with INQUIRER editors, even as he denied reports the NP would adopt Sen. Panfilo Lacson, as its presidential candidate.

He said that although Senator Lacson was a friend, the NP was "more inclined to support Raul Roco or GMA. I'm in this side of the fence (administration). To be fair with Ping, he never asked (for any endorsement)."

Villar admitted that he, his wife Rep. Cynthia Aguilar-Villar and Las Piñas City Mayor Nene Aguilar had indeed welcomed Lacson to the city during the latter's campaign swing there on Monday. "But everybody is welcome in Las Piñas," he said.

Although the NP is considering supporting Ms Macapagal in the May elections, Villar doubted the ability of the incumbent president to turn the economy around.

Villar noted that Ms Macapagal, a US-trained economist, has failed miserably to improve the economy since she assumed the presidency in 2001.

Citing his experience in business, the senator whose family is engaged in real estate and retail, said academic credentials were not the sole criterion in this election.

"We must check the background—if (he or she) has leadership. That's the requirement if you're looking for a CEO in a company. But that's just a company, and not yet (concerning) the entire nation. In other words, where we come from we choose the best manager," Villar said.

He said the next President should be a competent manager.

Trust an economist?

"For example, *wala pa namang namanage si Presidente.* Actually, she's a professor. I'm just saying that (she's not a good manager). Being a professor does not make you a competent manager," he said. "Will you trust an economist to run your company? And for that matter the country?" he asked.

But he was quick to point out that Ms Macapagal was a better manager than Fernando Poe Jr. even though Poe has managed own movie production outfit despite being a high school dropout.

"But very few people even look at management as a very important criterion. If you will not use management as a criterion in choosing your president, it is inevitable that you will be mismanaged. That's the logical result."

Reluctant

But Villar was reluctant to be tagged an ally of the President. This inadvertently surfaced when he admitted that he was personally rooting for Roco who, he said, had the competence, management capability and integrity to run the country.

He said some presidential candidates relied on motherhood statements to gain votes.

"But the problem with integrity is that all (candidates) will claim that they have it. In other words, there are criteria that they say they have such love of country, integrity and being close to the poor."

He pointed out that the country was in bad shape, and the economy was on the brink of bankruptcy. "So (our only hope is one who has) leadership and management capabilities."

Meanwhile, two NP stalwarts said most of the original NP members will support Ms Macapagal, not Lacson.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Zambales Rep. James Gordon said that NP members oppose the adoption of Lacson as the party's presidential bet.

"As former secretary general and executive vice president of the Nacionalista Party, I have been receiving objections from NPs in Metro Manila and from the provinces regarding the planned adoption of Lacson as NP presidential candidate," Gonzalez said.

In Malacañang, Ms Macapagal's campaign spokesperson Mike Defensor insisted that the Villars were supporting the President.

Unqualified support

"Mayor Aguilar called me up and said he is giving his full and unqualified support to the President," Defensor said in a phone interview.

"I'm very sure that Senator Villar, who was my speaker in Congress, will go with President Macapagal-Arroyo," said Defensor.

He said the other NP members, Sen. Ralph Recto and Gonzalez, are also with the administration.

Lacson, who was recently rendered partyless, had savored the idea of being adopted by the NP, the country's oldest political organization.

FPJ still won't debate but there'll be a seat for him

By Dona Pazzibugan and Martin P. Marfil

ACTOR Fernando Poe Jr.'s media chief yesterday apologetically announced that "as of today Mr. Fernando Poe is not inclined to participate in a debate."

But former newsman Rod Reyes said he recognized the importance of a debate among the presidential candidates and said he would try to convince Poe and would give a final answer by March 10.

Reyes said he would explain to Poe the mechanics of a debate and try to make him change his mind. He asked the debate organizers to reserve a seat for Poe even if he would not participate.

"He has his own personal reasons and I think I should leave that to the other spokesperson to elaborate on that," Reyes said when asked why Poe did not want to participate.

"I'll also work on the other guys to make him agree," Reyes said.

Reyes and representatives of the other candidates met separately with the proponents of the two debates, the GMA 7-INQUIRER group with a planned debate for March 29 and the Commission on Elections-Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting group which has scheduled its own debate for April 13.

Of the six presidential candidates, only Poe has refused to join either of the debates.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo would not participate without Poe.

Representatives of Raul Roco, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Eddie Villanueva and Eddie Gil said their candidates would have no problem participating, with or without Poe.

The four-hour GMA 7-INQUIRER debate titled, "*Engkwentro 2004: Sino ang Karapat-dapat sa Pagkapangulo*? (Encounter 2004: Who is deserving of becoming President?)" will be taped at the GMA studios on March 29 and aired in two parts on April 4 and 11 from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The Comelec-PPCRV debate will be aired live on Channel 5 on April 13.

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, INQUIRER president and CEO, said a debate would make candidates confront "real policy-making dilemmas" about poverty and corruption.

"We feel a debate is one way to strengthen our democratic practice. We owe it to our electorate to be able to make an informed choice," she said.

She said the debate will be about "issues we think about every day."

GMA 7 CEO Felipe Gozon said it was important for all the candidates to participate.

"Since they chose to run we believe they owe it to the electorate to inform them on their stand on issues and how they propose to resolve our serious national problems," he said.

But Gozon could not say if GMA 7-INQUIRER would push through with a debate in the absence of two of the candidates, Poe and Ms Macapagal.

Tanauan exec denies backing police chief

TANAUAN CITY—Mayor Alfred Corona yesterday denied reports he was backing the return to his post of this city's controversial police chief in exchange for the support of the influential Iglesia ni Cristo religious sect in the May elections.

The issue "has [been blown] out of proportion," Corona, told the INQUIRER , adding that he never used his authority to have Senior Supt. Efren Ramos reinstated after the latter was suspended following a jailbreak at the city police station in January. Ramos belongs to the INC which usually votes as a bloc for its favored candidates.

In fact, Corona said, he advised Batangas provincial police director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay to have Ramos and members of the Tanauan police force "patch up their differences before letting him return as our police chief."

The mayor said police officers came to his office last week to inform him of Ramos' impending return. He said the policemen also showed him copies of their complaints against their chief.

"I even called up Magtibay yesterday and asked him if he could delay his decision to reinstate Ramos as most of the policemen opposed his return. I also talked with Ramos and told him to stay put until the problems were solved," Corona said in an interview.

The Tanauan policemen who filed a petition seeking to prevent Ramos' return decided to go on a hunger strike beginning yesterday, after Corona blamed them for the news report that came out in yesterday'sINQUIRER on what was happening at their station.

"Instead of investigating Ramos, the provincial police are investigating us. This morning the mayor called us to his office and lambasted us, blaming us for the INQUIRER article that came out. He even asked us to tell him who had leaked the information about him supporting Ramos' return," a policeman told the INQUIRER.

Mei Magsino and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY
PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY • 1948 •

ANNUAL CONVENTION
March 4 - 6, 2004 • Manila Hotel
theme:
Images of Infection

MESSAGES

I commend the men and women of the Philippine College of Radiology (PCR) for spearheading this Annual Convention, which aims to address current issues in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of various diseases and infections. You meet at a time when improving the quality of our healthcare system is critical in enhancing the health and well being of our citizens.

The need to strengthen our society has compelled the government to put primacy on the reinforcement of healthcare. I am pleased to note that the Philippine College of Radiology has taken up this challenge by making significant strides in the development of innovative treatment and techniques in the medical field.

We welcome this event as a venue to consolidate the ranks of all radiologists whose efforts to promote health and nutrition will determine a large extent, our prospects for a better quality of life.

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Radiology (PCR) on the holding of their 2004 Annual Convention with the theme "Images of Infection"

Breakthroughs in medical technology, coupled with rapid advances in information and communication technology, have heralded us into a generation where possibilities in our approach towards managing illnesses have become limitless. This situation has also heralded us into an era which make global exchange of knowledge along the information highway occur swiftly and in real time, spawning a number of controversies and a myriad of issues in the process. These technological advances therefore need to be properly analyzed and managed as they ultimately affect the health outcomes of populations and individuals.

This event manifests your association's dedication to the advancement of your members by keeping them abreast with the latest modalities and techniques in abdominal imaging. We can attain genuine progress, by providing all Filipinos an access to quality and affordable healthcare.

I would like to commend you for conducting this convention ---for your untiring efforts to continuously impart new knowledge and recent updates regarding the various concerns of your profession in order to ensure the quality of radiology care that our people obtain as well as generate greater enthusiasm to promote excellence health among our people.

As you carry on with your vision, I exhort you to join the rest of the health sector in improving the delivery of quality healthcare services as we attempt to enhance the quality of life of the Filipino people.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong Lahat!
MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we convey sincerest best wishes to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Radiology on the occasion of its 2004 Annual Convention.

We heartily congratulate you, the men and women behind the helm of PCR for placing premium on the pursuit of excellence in radiological healthcare. This year's convention anchored on theme, "Images of Infection", augurs well, in view of your relentless efforts in developing and strengthening the PCR research culture. Your admirable concern in catering to the intellectual interest of radiologists through dissemination and discussion of cutting edge topics deserves all out support. Thus, we gladly join you in welcoming participants and delegates to this important confab. Let us all look forward to a most successful convention.

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Philippine College of Radiology
JOSE T. SANCHEZ
President, Philippine Medical Association

March 4, 2004 • Thursday • Pre-Congress • Vascular Radiology

08:00 - 08:30 am	OPENING OF EXHIBITS
08:30 - 09:15 am	*Chamber Enlargements*
	• Dr. Lino Santiago S. Pabillo
09:15 - 10:00 am	*Cyanotic and Acyanotic Diseases*
	• Dr. Mario M. Yuzon
10:00 - 10:15 am	Open Forum / Break
10:15 - 11:00 am	*Abdominal Doppler*
	• Dr. Vicente V. Romano In fulfillment of the Dr. Felix Llamido Professional Chair Lecture
11:00 - 11:45 am	*Lower Extremity Venous Doppler*
	• Dr. Luz Lacuna-Tamayo
12:00 - 01:00 pm	LUNCH co-sponsored by PCR & Siemens
01:15 - 02:00 pm	*Radiation Protection: Reduction of Radiation Exposure in Diagnostic Radiology*
	• Mrs. Eulinia M. Valdezco, M.S.
02:00 - 02:45 pm	*Vascular Interventional Procedures*
	• Dr. Emmanuel D. Almazan
02:45 - 03:00 pm	OPEN FORUM / BREAK
03:00 - 04:30 pm	*Intracranial Hemorrhage*
	• Dr. Renato M. Carlos
04:30 - 06:30 pm	BATTLE OF THE BRAINS
07:00 pm	FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

March 5, 2004 • Friday • Congress Proper • Day 1 • Images of Infection

09.00 - 09.45 am	*CNS Infections*
	• Dr. Ma. Lourdes Badion
09:45 - 10:30 am	*Head and Neck Infections*
	• Dr. Cesar Co
11:00 - 01:00 pm	OPENING CEREMONIES LUNCHEON KEYNOTE ADDRESS
01:00 - 01:45 pm	*Atypical Pneumonias*
	• Dr. Alfred Villarosa
01:45 - 03:00 pm	*Update on Pulmonary Tuberculosis* *The Clinician's Perspective*
	• Dr. Charles Yu
	The Radiologist's Perspective
	• Dr. Pilar Arabia
03:00 - 03:30 pm	Product Presentation / snack sponsored by HIMEX
03:30 - 04:15 pm	*Infections of the CVS and their Consequences*
	• Dr. Romulo Vea
04:30 - 05:15 pm	*Infections of the Neonates*
	• Dr. Gerardo Beltran
05:30 pm	PCR BUSINESS MEETING

March 6, 2004 • Saturday • Congress Proper • Day 2 • Images of Infection

08.30 - 09.15 am	*Infections of the Gastrointestinal System*
	• Dr. Manuel Mejia
09:30 - 10:30 am	PATERNO CHIKIAMCO LECTURE
	Dr. Glenn A.M. Catedral
10:30 - 11:15 am	*Infections of the GUT and Retroperitoneum*
	• Dr. Rosanna Fragante
11:30 - 01:30 pm	LUNCH
01.30 - 02.30 pm	*His and Hers Infections: Gynecologic, Prostatic and Scrotal Diseases*
	• Dr. Jose Emmanuel Flandes
02:30 - 03.30 pm	*Infectious Diseases of the Bone, Joint and Spine*
	• Dr. Frederick Hipol
03:30 - 04:30 pm	*Vascular Interventional Procedures*
	Dr. Emmanuel Almazan
06:00 pm	INDUCTION CEREMONIES

MESSAGES

Greetings and welcome to all delegates of this year's Annual Convention!

It is more than appropriate that the theme of this year's convention is Infections. We are plague daily with news stories os SARS, bird flu and AIDS. We are all aware of the chronic irritant that is tuberculosis. Despite the best efforts of many medical agencies, there is no end in sight when it comes to these infections.

It is this opportune that we are talking about these infections from a Radiologic standpoint for we are instrumental in the diagnosis of these conditions. It is never easy to pin down a final diagnosis with an image but the radiologist's job is to trim down the list significantly for the clinician's benefit. Having done this, it will have been a day well spent.

Let us spend these days well by learning as much as we can. May this convention be fruitful for all of us.

EMMANUEL D. ALMAZAN, MD, FPCR
President, Philippine College of Radiology

It has been said that the scourge of the 20th century is infection and that, with the dawning of the 21st, we will be faced with the specter of lifestyle diseases. Yet, 5 years into the 21st century, we in the medical field are no closer to eradicating these infections than we were 50 years ago. If anything, more infectious diseases seem to be cropping up.

We have more reason now to study infections, as these have become the enemy. Radiologists have come center stage in this battle against infections. In the diagnosis of infections. Thus, our raison d'etre is each and every person who develops pneumonia or meningitis or pyelonephritis or any other infection.

In behalf of the Organizing Committee, we welcome you to this Annual Convention!

Catherine M Lazaro
CATHERINE JESSICA M. LAZARO, MD, FPVR
Convention Chairperson

Annual Convention Committees

Catherine Jessica M. Lazaro
Over-all Chair

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Orlando R. Ignacio, MD
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Unit 809 Future Point Plaza, Panay Avenue, South Triangle, Quezon City • Telephone No s. 373 [illegible] 43299

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST Extreme Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with rains. Mindanao will be mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers
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COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/04/04

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NP bet: GMA or Roco

By Michael L. Ubac, Juliet L. Javellana, Cynthia D. Balana and Norman Bordadora

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He said that although Senator Lacson was a friend, the NP was "more inclined to support Raul Roco or GMA. I'm in this side of the fence (administration). To be fair with Ping, he never asked (for any endorsement)."

Villar admitted that he, his wife Rep. Cynthia Aguilar-Villar and Las Piñas City Mayor Nene Aguilar had indeed welcomed Lacson to the city during the latter's campaign swing there on Monday. "But everybody is welcome in Las Piñas," he said.

Although the NP is considering supporting Ms Macapagal in the May elections, Villar doubted the ability of the incumbent president to turn the economy around.

Villar noted that Ms Macapagal, a US-trained economist, has failed miserably to improve the economy since she assumed the presidency in 2001.

Citing his experience in business, the senator whose family is engaged in real estate and retail, said academic credentials were not the sole criterion in this election.

"We must check the background—if (he or she) has leadership. That's the requirement if you're looking for a CEO in a company. But that's just a company, and not yet (concerning) the entire nation. In other words, where we come from we choose the best manager," Villar said.

He said the next President should be a competent manager.

Trust an economist?

"For example, *wala pa namang namanage si Presidente*. Actually, she's a professor. I'm just saying that (she's not a good manager). Being a professor does not make you a competent manager," he said. "Will you trust an economist to run your company? And for that matter the country?" he asked.

But he was quick to point out that Ms Macapagal was a better manager than Fernando Poe Jr. even though Poe has managed own movie production outfit despite being a high school dropout.

"But very few people even look at management as a very important criterion. If you will not use management as a criterion in choosing your president, it is inevitable that you will be mismanaged. That's the logical result."

Reluctant

But Villar was reluctant to be tagged an ally of the President. This inadvertently surfaced when he admitted that he was personally rooting for Roco who, he said, had the competence, management capability and integrity to run the country.

He said some presidential candidates relied on motherhood statements to gain votes.

"But the problem with integrity is that all (candidates) will claim that they have it. In other words, there are criteria that they say they have such love of country, integrity and being close to the poor."

He pointed out that the country was in bad shape, and the economy was on the brink of bankruptcy. "So (our only hope is one who has) leadership and management capabilities."

Meanwhile, two NP stalwarts said most of the original NP members will support Ms Macapagal, not Lacson.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Zambales Rep. James Gordon said that NP members oppose the adoption of Lacson as the party's presidential bet.

"As former secretary general and executive vice president of the Nacionalista Party, I have been receiving objections from NPs in Metro Manila and from the provinces regarding the planned adoption of Lacson as NP presidential candidate," Gonzalez said.

In Malacañang, Ms Macapagal's campaign spokesperson Mike Defensor insisted that the Villars were supporting the President.

Unqualified support

"Mayor Aguilar called me up and said he is giving his full and unqualified support to the President," Defensor said in a phone interview.

"I'm very sure that Senator Villar, who was my speaker in Congress, will go with President Macapagal-Arroyo," said Defensor.

He said the other NP members, Sen. Ralph Recto and Gonzalez, are also with the administration.

Lacson, who was recently rendered partyless, had savored the idea of being adopted by the NP, the country's oldest political organization.

FPJ still won't debate but there'll be a seat for him

By Dona Pazzibugan and Martin P. Marfil

ACTOR Fernando Poe Jr.'s media chief yesterday apologetically announced that "as of today Mr. Fernando Poe is not inclined to participate in a debate."

But former newsman Rod Reyes said he recognized the importance of a debate among the presidential candidates and said he would try to convince Poe and would give a final answer by March 10.

Reyes said he would explain to Poe the mechanics of a debate and try to make him change his mind. He asked the debate organizers to reserve a seat for Poe even if he would not participate.

"He has his own personal reasons and I think I should leave that to the other spokesperson to elaborate on that," Reyes said when asked why Poe did not want to participate.

"I'll also work on the other guys to make him agree," Reyes said.

Reyes and representatives of the other candidates met separately with the proponents of the two debates, the GMA 7-INQUIRER group with a planned debate for March 29 and the Commission on Elections-Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting group which has scheduled its own debate for April 13.

Of the six presidential candidates, only Poe has refused to join either of the debates.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo would not participate without Poe.

Representatives of Raul Roco, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Eddie Villanueva and Eddie Gil said their candidates would have no problem participating, with or without Poe.

The four-hour GMA 7-INQUIRER debate titled, "*Engkwentro 2004: Sino ang Karapat-dapat sa Pagkapangulo*? (Encounter 2004: Who is deserving of becoming President?)" will be taped at the GMA studios on March 29 and aired in two parts on April 4 and 11 from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The Comelec-PPCRV debate will be aired live on Channel 5 on April 13.

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, INQUIRER president and CEO, said a debate would make candidates confront "real policy-making dilemmas" about poverty and corruption.

"We feel a debate is one way to strengthen our democratic practice. We owe it to our electorate to be able to make an informed choice," she said.

She said the debate will be about "issues we think about every day."

GMA 7 CEO Felipe Gozon said it was important for all the candidates to participate.

"Since they chose to run we believe they owe it to the electorate to inform them on their stand on issues and how they propose to resolve our serious national problems," he said.

But Gozon could not say if GMA 7-INQUIRER would push through with a debate in the absence of two of the candidates, Poe and Ms Macapagal.

Tanauan exec denies backing police chief

TANAUAN CITY—Mayor Alfred Corona yesterday denied reports he was backing the return to his post of this city's controversial police chief in exchange for the support of the influential Iglesia ni Cristo religious sect in the May elections.

The issue "has [been blown] out of proportion," Corona, told the INQUIRER , adding that he never used his authority to have Senior Supt. Efren Ramos reinstated after the latter was suspended following a jailbreak at the city police station in January. Ramos belongs to the INC which usually votes as a bloc for its favored candidates.

In fact, Corona said, he advised Batangas provincial police director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay to have Ramos and members of the Tanauan police force "patch up their differences before letting him return as our police chief."

The mayor said police officers came to his office last week to inform him of Ramos' impending return. He said the policemen also showed him copies of their complaints against their chief.

"I even called up Magtibay yesterday and asked him if he could delay his decision to reinstate Ramos as most of the policemen opposed his return. I also talked with Ramos and told him to stay put until the problems were solved," Corona said in an interview.

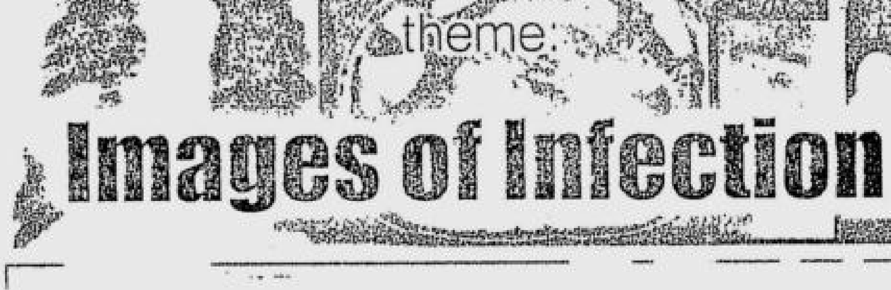
The Tanauan policemen who filed a petition seeking to prevent Ramos' return decided to go on a hunger strike beginning yesterday, after Corona blamed them for the news report that came out in yesterday's INQUIRER on what was happening at their station.

"Instead of investigating Ramos, the provincial police are investigating us. This morning the mayor called us to his office and lambasted us, blaming us for the INQUIRER article that came out. He even asked us to tell him who had leaked the information about him supporting Ramos' return," a policeman told the INQUIRER.

Mei Magsino and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY

ANNUAL CONVENTION
March 4 - 6, 2004 • Manila Hotel


theme:
Images of Infection

MESSAGES

I commend the men and women of the Philippine College of Radiology (PCR) for spearheading this Annual Convention, which aims to address current issues in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of various diseases and infections You meet at a time when improving the quality of our healthcare system is critical in enhancing the health and well being of our citizens

The need to strengthen our society has compelled the government to put primacy on the reinforcement of healthcare I am pleased to note that the Philippine College of Radiology has taken up this challenge by making significant strides in the development of innovative treatment and techniques in the medical field

We welcome this event as a venue to consolidate the ranks of all radiologists whose efforts to promote health and nutrition will determine a large extent, our prospects for a better quality of life

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Radiology (PCR) on the holding of their 2004 Annual Convention with the theme "Images of Infection"

Breakthroughs in medical technology, coupled with rapid advances in information and communication technology, have heralded us into a generation where possibilities in our approach towards managing illnesses have become limitless This situation has also heralded us into an era which make global exchange of knowledge along the information highway occur swiftly and in real time, spawning a number of controversies and a myriad of issues in the process These technological advances therefore need to be properly analyzed and managed as they ultimately affect the health outcomes of populations and individuals

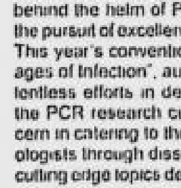
This event manifests your association s dedication to the advancement of your members by keeping them abreast with the latest modalities and techniques in abdominal imaging We can attain genuine progress by providing all Filipinos an access to quality and affordable healthcare

I would like to commend you for conducting this convention --for your untiring efforts to continuously impart new knowledge and recent updates regarding the various concerns of your profession in order to ensure the quality of radiology care that our people obtain as well as generate greater enthusiasm to promote excellence health among our people

As you carry on with your vision, I exhort you to join the rest of the health sector in improving the delivery of quality healthcare services as we attempt to enhance the quality of life of the Filipino people

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong Lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health


On behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we convey sincerest best wishes to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Radiology on the occasion of its 2004 Annual Convention

We heartily congratulate you, the men and women behind the helm of PCR for placing premium on the pursuit of excellence in radiological healthcare This year's convention anchored on theme "Images of Infection", augurs well in view of your relentless efforts in developing and strengthening the PCR research culture. Your admirable concern in catering to the intellectual interest of radiologists through dissemination and discussion of cutting edge topics deserves all out support Thus, we gladly join you in welcoming participants and delegates to this important confab Let us all look forward to a most successful convention

Congratulations, Mabuhay ang Philippine College of Radiology

JOSE T. SANCHEZ
President Philippine Medical Association

Greetings and welcome to all delegates of this year's Annual Convention!

It is more than appropriate that the theme of this year's convention is infections We are plague daily with news stories os SARS, bird flu and AIDS We are all aware of the chronic irritant that is tuberculosis Despite the best efforts of many medical agencies, there is no end in sight when it comes to these infections.

It is this opportune that we are talking about these infections from a Radiologic standpoint for we are instrumental in the diagnosis of these conditions It is never easy to pin down a final diagnosis with an image but the radiologist's job is to trim down the list significantly for the clinician's benefit Having done this, it will have been a day well spent

Let us spend these days well by learning as much as we can May this convention be fruitful for all of us

EMMANUEL D. ALMAZAN, MD, FPCR
President Philippine College of Radiology

It has been said that the scourge of the 20th century is infection and that, with the dawning of the 21st, we will be faced with the specter of lifestyle diseases Yet, 5 years into the 21st century we in the medical field are no closer to eradicating these infections than we were 50 years ago. If anything, more infectious diseases seem to be cropping up

We have more reason now to study infections, as these have become the enemy Radiologists have come center stage in this battle against infections in the diagnosis of infections Thus, our raison d'etre is each and every person who develops pneumonia or meningitis or pyelonephritis or any other infection

In behalf of the Organizing Committee, we welcome you to this Annual Convention!

Catherine M Lazaro
CATHERINE JESSICA M. LAZARO, MD, FPVR
Convention Chairperson

March 4, 2004 • Thursday • Pre-Congress • Vascular Radiology

08 00 - 08 30 am	OPENING OF EXHIBITS
08 30 - 09:15 am	*Chamber Enlargements* • Dr Lino Santiago S. Pabillo
09:15 - 10:00 am	*Cyanotic and Acyanotic Diseases* • Dr Mario M Yuzon
10 00 - 10:15 am	Open Forum / Break
10 15 - 11:00 am	*Abdominal Doppler* • Dr Vicente V. Romano In fulfillment of the Dr. Felix Llamido Professional Chair Lecture
11:00 - 11:45 am	*Lower Extremity Venous Doppler* • Dr. Luz Lacuna-Tamayo
12 00 - 01 00 pm	LUNCH co-sponsored by PCR & Siemens
01:15 - 02:00 pm	*Radiation Protection: Reduction of Radiation Exposure in Diagnostic Radiology* • Mrs. Eulinia M Valdezco, M S.
02:00 - 02:45 pm	*Vascular Interventional Procedures* • Dr Emmanuel D Almazan
02 45 - 03.00 pm	OPEN FORUM / BREAK
03:00 - 04 30 pm	*Intracranial Hemorrhage* • Dr. Renato M. Carlos
04 30 - 06:30 pm	BATTLE OF THE BRAINS
07.00 pm	FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

March 5, 2004 • Friday • Congress Proper • Day 1 • Images of Infection

09.00 - 09.45 am	*CNS Infections* • Dr Ma Lourdes Badion
09:45 - 10:30 am	*Head and Neck Infections* • Dr. Cesar Co
11:00 - 01:00 pm	OPENING CEREMONIES LUNCHEON KEYNOTE ADDRESS
01:00 - 01 45 pm	*Atypical Pneumonias* • Dr Alfred Villarosa
01:45 - 03 00 pm	*Update on Pulmonary Tuberculosis* *The Clinician's Perspective* • Dr Charles Yu *The Radiologist's Perspective* • Dr. Pilar Arabia
03 00 - 03 30 pm	Product Presentation / snack sponsored by HIMEX
03 30 - 04 15 pm	*Infections of the CVS and their Consequences* • Dr Romulo Vea
04:30 - 05:15 pm	*Infections of the Neonates* • Dr. Gerardo Beltran
05:30 pm	PCR BUSINESS MEETING

March 6, 2004 • Saturday • Congress Proper • Day 2 • Images of Infection

08.30 - 09 15 am	*Infections of the Gastrointestinal System* • Dr. Manuel Mejia
09 30 - 10 30 am	PATERNO CHIKIAMCO LECTURE Dr. Glenn A M Catedral
10.30 - 11 15 am	*Infections of the GUT and Retroperitoneum* • Dr. Rosanna Fragante
11 30 - 01 30 pm	LUNCH
01 30 - 02 30 pm	*His and Hers Infections: Gynecologic, Prostatic and Scrotal Diseases* • Dr Jose Emmanuel Flandes
02:30 - 03.30 pm	*Infectious Diseases of the Bone, Joint and Spine* • Dr. Frederick Hipol
03:30 - 04:30 pm	*Vascular Interventional Procedures* Dr. Emmanuel Almazan
06 00 pm	INDUCTION CEREMONIES

Annual Convention Committees

Catherine Jessica M. Lazaro
Over-all Chair

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Gov't suspends jeepney franchises in strike aftermath

By Clarissa S. Batino

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LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista said her office would summon some 300 jeepney operators from Alabang, Cubao, Monumento in Caloocan, Navotas, Novaliches, and Pasay. "These were the routes that were abandoned and offhand, we have listed about 300 franchise holders registered in these routes. We could suspend their licenses if we can prove they participated in the strike," she said.

Presidential candidate Raul Roco took the cudgels for jeepney drivers and operators who joined the transport strike and said it was wrong for President Macapagal-Arroyo to threaten them with sanctions.

"The Alyansa ng Pag-Asa finds the proposal to cancel the franchise of the jeepney drivers as anti-poor," said Roco at a press conference yesterday in General Santos City. "We must listen to them, encourage them to participate to the mainstream of the country. But you cannot threaten them by depriving them of their livelihood," he said.

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Legarda said the threat to cancel the franchises of jeepneys that joined the March 1 national strike was "a knee-jerk reaction that will only be understood as a brazen attempt to stifle dissent, a violation of the basic tenets of the Constitution under the bill of rights."

In yesterday's hearing, the LTFRB agreed to decide on the jeepney groups' petition for an interim P1-hike on or before Friday even as the Office of the Solicitor General opposed the provisional increase.

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Jeepney operators and drivers have asked the LTFRB for an increase of P2 for the first five kilometers. At the same time, they sought an interim fare hike of P1 for the first five kilometers. Bus groups had petitioned for a similar increase P2-hike but they had yet to ask for a temporary relief.

The LTFRB will hold a public hearing today on the petition of bus groups. *With Michael Lim Ubac*

THE SINGER NOT THE SONG
President Macapagal-Arroyo belts out "Kahit Konting Pagtingin," ironically the song from the blockbuster movie of the same title which starred Fernando Poe Jr. and Sharon Cuneta during La Union's 154th foundation day. Singing with her are San Fernando City Mayor Mary Jane Ortega (left) and La Union Gov. Victor Francisco Ortega (right). TOOTS SOBERANO, PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

English not a must for leadership—Lapid

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—"*Lahat ng English may katapat na Tagalog* (All English words have corresponding words in Tagalog)."

With this pronouncement, Gov. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, a movie actor and a senatorial candidate of the administration coalition K-4, said he was "ready" to work in the Senate.

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"What is more important is that the masses and I have a language we both understand," he said.

Lapid lost his father at age six and his mother reared the brood by washing other people's clothes. He finished high school and then joined the movies as a stuntman.

"*Marunong naman akong mag-English kaya lang hindi fluent at konti lang* (I know how to speak English but I'm not fluent and my vocabulary is limited)," he said, concerning reports he only knew "carabao English" which former President Joseph Estrada popularized.

Estrada, however, was said to have a good grasp of the language but deliberately committed mistakes in order to endear himself to ordinary Filipinos, who gave him the biggest chunk of votes in the 1998 elections.

When Lapid appeared on the TV talk show "Talking Points" last week, he said he only knew two English one-liners. These were: "What is that? *Kabayong bundat* (a pot-bellied horse). What is this? *Sabo dagis* (broth from a boiled rat)."

Yesterday, the 46-year-old governor told the INQUIRER that he had been merely injecting humor into the serious political discussion.

Lapid said people should not base his ability to lead on his limited English speaking skills. He boasted of his 12 years experience as Pampanga governor and three years as vice governor.

"*Marunong at may tibay ng loob akong mamuno* (I know how to lead and I have the determination to lead)," he said.

Lapid is a successful movie actor, having made 60 movies since 1978 when he first starred in the "Jess Lapid Sr. Story."

However, his political performance, which is largely handled by a team of six advisers, has been rated "poor" by critics.

In the past, he faced two graft cases involving alleged anomalous collections of quarry taxes and supposed cheating on taxes owed the provincial government from the purchase of a P104-million property for a mass housing project.

In the Senate, Lapid said his priorities would be education, health and agriculture. He wants to file a bill that would make a six-month computer course free to high school graduates.

In terms of political resources, Lapid said: "I do not have millions, only thousands of pesos from donations. *Dinadaanan ko sa katawan ko* (I compensate through my physical strength)," he said, meaning he is banking on his strength to be able to go around the country and court votes.

"*At saka popular pa rin naman ako* (And I'm still popular, you know)," which he said is his biggest advantage in this year's senatorial race.

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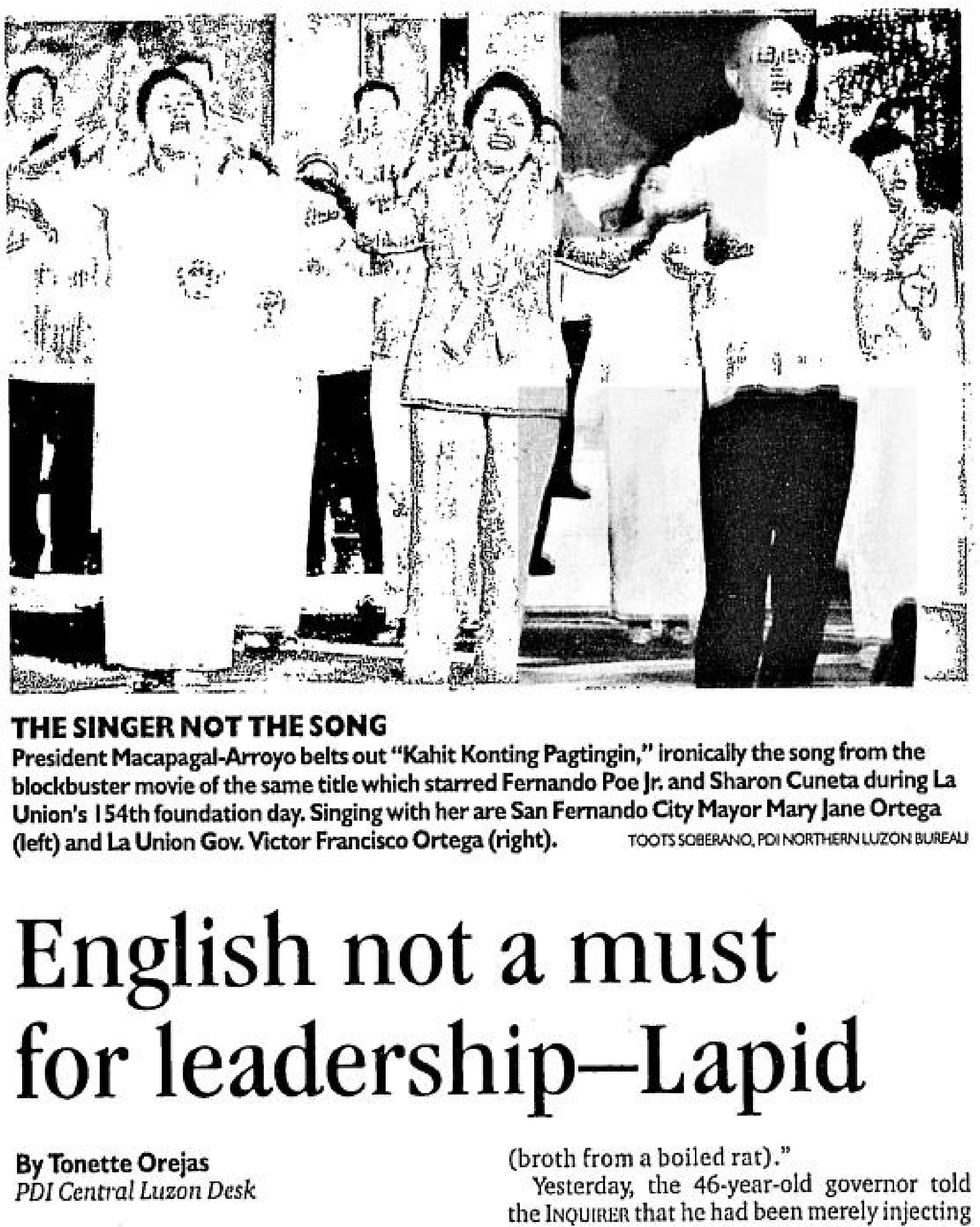

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"What is more important is that the masses and I have a language we both understand," he said.

Lapid lost his father at age six and his mother reared the brood by washing other people's clothes. He finished high school and then joined the movies as a stuntman.

"*Marunong naman akong mag-English kaya lang hindi fluent at konti lang* (I know how to speak English but I'm not fluent and my vocabulary is limited)," he said, concerning reports he only knew "carabao English" which former President Joseph Estrada popularized.

Estrada, however, was said to have a good grasp of the language but deliberately committed mistakes in order to endear himself to ordinary Filipinos, who gave him the biggest chunk of votes in the 1998 elections.

When Lapid appeared on the TV talk show "Talking Points" last week, he said he only knew two English one-liners. These were: "What is that? *Kabayong bundat* (a pot-bellied horse). What is this? *Sabo dagis* (broth from a boiled rat)."

Yesterday, the 46-year-old governor told the INQUIRER that he had been merely injecting humor into the serious political discussion.

Lapid said people should not base his ability to lead on his limited English speaking skills. He boasted of his 12 years experience as Pampanga governor and three years as vice governor.

"*Marunong at may tibay ng loob akong mamuno* (I know how to lead and I have the determination to lead)," he said.

Lapid is a successful movie actor, having made 60 movies since 1978 when he first starred in the "Jess Lapid Sr. Story."

However, his political performance, which is largely handled by a team of six advisers, has been rated "poor" by critics.

In the past, he faced two graft cases involving alleged anomalous collections of quarry taxes and supposed cheating on taxes owed the provincial government from the purchase of a P104-million property for a mass housing project.

In the Senate, Lapid said his priorities would be education, health and agriculture. He wants to file a bill that would make a six-month computer course free to high school graduates.

In terms of political resources, Lapid said: "I do not have millions, only thousands of pesos from donations. *Dinadaanan ko sa katawan ko* (I compensate through my physical strength)," he said, meaning he is banking on his strength to be able to go around the country and court votes.

"*At saka popular pa rin naman ako* (And I'm still popular, you know)," which he said is his biggest advantage in this year's senatorial race.

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SC: Poe qualified to run

From page A1

Adolfo Azcuna, who all wrote separate concurring opinions.

Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno also wrote a separate concurring opinion and he was joined by Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago.

Those who dissented were Associate Justices Leonardo Quisumbing, Antonio Carpio, Renato Corona, Conchita Carpio Morales and Dante Tinga.

Khan said Justice Artemio Panganiban was on official leave and did not take part in the final deliberations. Panganiban is in Latin America on a speaking engagement.

"He is officially absent," Khan explained.

Puno is in Singapore but was able to cast his vote, he added. Petitioners Victorino Fornier, Maria Jeanette Tecson and Zoilo Velez have 15 days to appeal the decision.

Heated but friendly

Reliable court sources said the crucial votes to dismiss the petition came from Azcuna, Callejo and Martinez. The INQUIRER sources said the deliberations were heated but that they remained "friendly."

In his separate concurring opinion, Davide noted that even petitioner Fornier admitted that respondent Poe was a son of Allan F. Poe.

"Fornier never alleged that Allan Poe was not (Poe's) father. By revolving his case around the illegitimacy of (Poe), Fornier effectively conceded paternity or filiation as a non-issue," Davide said.

He noted that under Paragraph 3, Section I, Article IV of the 1935 Constitution, those who had a Filipino father were also natural-born Filipino citizens.

"I agree with the amici curiae that this provision makes no distinction between legitimate and illegitimate children of Filipino fathers. It is enough that filiation is established or that the child is acknowledged or recognized by the father," Davide said.

He said that the following "facts have been established by a weighty preponderance of evidence" during the oral arguments: Poe was born on Aug. 20, 1939 in Manila; he was born to Allan Poe and Bessie Kelley; and his parents were married on Sept. 16, 1940.

More importantly, he said Allan Poe was a Filipino because his father, Lorenzo Poe, "albeit a Spanish subject," was not shown to have declared his allegiance to Spain by virtue of the Treaty of Paris and the Philippine Bill of 1902.

"Since paternity or filiation is in fact admitted by petitioner Fornier, the Comelec committed no grave abuse of discretion in holding that (Poe) is a Filipino citizen pursuant to (the 1935 Constitution)," Davide said.

"For purposes of the citizenship of an illegitimate child whose father is a Filipino and whose mother is an alien, proof of paternity or filiation is enough for the child to follow the citizenship of his putative father (as amicus curiae Bernas argued)," he added.

Dissenting opinion

But in a 27-page dissenting opinion, Tinga argued that the Comelec had acted with grave abuse of discretion "in failing to make a determination of the findings of fact" on the case "as well as (to) rule on the evidence before it."

"Especially blatant to my mind was the conclusion of the Comelec that Lorenzo Pou 'had ceased to be a Spanish subject and had become a Filipino citizen' by operation of the Philippine Bill of 1902 and the Jones Law, despite the absence of substantial evidence to support this claim," Tinga said.

He said that there was no proof of Pou's acquisition of Filipino citizenship and that candidate Poe's paternity had not been "conclusively established."

"The truth is that no incontestible proof establishes that (Poe) had been acknowledged by Allan F. Poe as his son," he said.

Tinga said that Poe's birth certificate and his parents' marriage contract failed to prove the actor's filiation.

No independent evidence

"Not only do they fail to prove filiation, they actually caution us against any hasty presumptions of paternity. These documents establish the illegitimacy of Poe, and illegitimate birth does not carry any presumption on paternity. Indeed, paternity has to be established by independent evidence. No such evidence is before this court," Tinga said.

He said that the SC could have remanded the case to the Court of Appeals the reception and trial of evidence but it did not. Tinga said the burden of proof that Poe was a natural-born citizen rested with the actor.

"It was incumbent upon the respondent, who claims natural-born status, to prove to the satisfaction of the court that he is really such. Failing thus, and, as no presumption can be indulged in favor of the claimant of Philippine citizenship, the doubt must be resolved in favor of the state," Tinga said.

Palace glad

Malacañang welcomed the verdict, saying the President could now face Poe "fair and square."

"We're glad it's over. Now we can focus on the campaign," said Mike Defensor, Ms Macapagal's campaign spokesperson.

Speaking on television, Poe's spokesperson Rep. Francis Escudero said the movie idol's camp had been confident all along that the Supreme Court would rule the way it did: "*Buong-buo ang paniniwala ng aming mga kasamahan, at ganun din si FPJ, na siya ay kakatigan ng Korte Suprema.*"

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the other opposition candidate, said the verdict only meant that he and Poe would now have to part ways.

"He remains a candidate and I remain a candidate. It is inevitable that we separate ways," Lacson said, adding:

"I wish him luck."

But Lacson remained hopeful for a unified opposition, with Poe and himself pushing through with negotiations in April.

"I hope we will still consider each other as political allies," Lacson said:

The lawyers who filed the challenge have 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration.

Asked about the prospect, Victorino Fornier, who filed the original petition against Poe, said: "If I don't believe the decision was made correctly, or there are certain errors made by the honorable Supreme Court in arriving at this decision which I haven't seen yet, then I will file a motion for reconsideration."

Rule of law

Ricardo Saludo, deputy spokesperson for Ms Macapagal, said Malacañang would "abide by the rule of law as interpreted by the court."

"And it is good that this issue had been resolved," he said.

Both Saludo and Defensor maintained that Ms Macapagal was confident of winning against the popular actor.

"They have to understand that even with this decision, the President is still the strongest candidate," Defensor said. "And we have been saying that we would like the citizenship [issue] to be decided as early as possible and for [Poe] to be declared Filipino so that the President can beat [him] fair and square, so that there can be no doubt as to the mandate of President Macapagal-Arroyo."

High-level campaign

Saludo said: "We have maintained that as the surveys have shown, we have been gaining in the polls and we expect to ... score a resounding victory in the polls."

Defensor congratulated Poe on the verdict.

"So now we can engage in a high-level campaign of programs, policies and the qualities of the respective candidates," Defensor added. "We hope that with this decision, we can fully focus on the campaign. And not only that, to ensure that we would be able to educate our voters in this coming election."

The case has unsettled financial markets and the business community in recent weeks. Opposition politicians have accused the President's camp of orchestrating the petition against Poe, a close friend of disgraced ex-President Joseph Estrada who was ousted in 2001 amid massive anti-corruption protests.

Malacañang has denied that it was behind the disqualification petition. *With reports from AP, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Norman Bordadora*

'Da King' on high court ruling: 'Finally, I'm vindicated'

From page A1

City.

Roco said the disqualification move against Poe had been "instigated by Malacañang" and it could now boomerang on Ms Macapagal herself.

"By accident, they strengthened FPJ by [trying to] prevent him from running," he said. "It created sympathy. But sympathy does not mean he can solve the problems of the country. After initial sympathy, the people must think clearly who can serve the Philippines better."

Poe supporters danced jubilantly at his campaign headquarters, Reuters reported.

"Justice prevails," it quoted Butch Cadsawan, president of one movement supporting Poe, as saying.

Hours before the Supreme Court released its ruling, Angara was already expressing confidence it would uphold Poe's contention that he was a natural-born Filipino.

"*Nabunutan siya ng tinik*(He felt relieved)," Angara said in a telephone interview.

He said Poe was deluged with phone calls from well-wishers congratulating him on his legal victory.

The ruling was "good illustration that in times of emergency, the high court transcends all partisan lines," Angara said, adding it would also give Poe's campaign an "extra push."

"It will be now uncluttered by artificial bariers that were erected along the way," he said.

KNP supporters said they expected Poe to receive a jubilant reception when he and his ticket barnstorm the Visayas today at the start of a four-day sortie.

Poe is expected to be in Tacloban, Leyte, today and in Borongan and Catbalogan in Samar on Friday and Saturday. He ends his sortie in the region with a visit to Calbayog on Sunday.

"Truth and justice have triumphed," an elated Poe campaign manager, Sen. Vicente Sotto III said. He added that the "right to choose has been preserved for the people where sovereignity resides."

Saved country

The court ruling had also saved the country from political instability, Sotto said.

Poe's spokesperson, Rep. Francis Escudero, said the decision showed the disqualification case against Poe was a "harassment suit."

"The suit was conceived not to take him out of the race but to slow down his unstoppable march to Malacañang," said Escudero.

Joseph Francia, secretary general of the Federation of Philippine Industries, said the court decision would enable businessmen to put aside fears of social upheaval.

"The peso will appreciate, the stock market will improve. It is good for the economy," Francia said.

"We have gone through the process, so let us go on (with the election). May the best person win," he added.

Donald Dee, executive vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the decision raised hopes that the election would be peaceful.

"Now that the issue has been decided, it is time to move on," Dee said.

"If Poe wins, he will have a lot of convincing to do right after the elections," he said. " Let us hope FPJ can do something that can dispel what foreign and local businessmen think of him."

Industrialist Raul Concepcion said he respected the high court's decision.

"That is the wiser decision rather than to remand the issue to the lower courts," Concepcion said. "It saves us from greater uncertainties." *With reports from Ronnel Domingo, Michael Lim-Ubac and Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

'Free as birds,' 2 detained officers surface

From page A1

Amboy, 55, and De Castro, 56, denied that they were recruiting reservists to join mass actions in support of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in the event that the movie idol is disqualified by the Supreme Court.

Don't know Poe

De Castro and Amboy vehemently denied having been detained or taken in custody for questioning on the alleged recruitment.

Amboy said he and Castro had learned about their supposed detention from media reports.

"I am free as a bird. We are not being restricted [to quarters] or under detention. We have not received orders or summonses from the [AFP]," he declared, adding:

"But accusations against us appeared in the media before we were even informed. This smacks of lack of due process and violates our rights."

Neither have they received any orders for their transfer to Mindanao, the two said.

They said they had yet to decide whether they would take legal action against the military leadership for the "false" accusations.

"We don't know him [Poe] or any of the [other] candidates," the two said. They said they did not personally know Eleazar, who, according to the military, was likewise involved in the alleged recruitment.

Amboy also denied they had met with the Philippine Guardian Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI), a group of civilians and active military and police personnel, of which Sen. Gregorio Honasan is chair and president.

Honasan himself, an ally of Poe's, said the military officials who had said this were "liars."

But Lucero stuck to his guns.

"We expected these vehement denials on their part," he told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo. "But we would like to stress to the public that we are airing these accusations against the three officers because we ... are protecting the apolitical and neutral nature of the AFP. It is my credibility against theirs. I think national interest must be given more weight than personal interests."

ARMY Col. Ernie Amboy and Lt. Col. Edgardo de Castro hold a press conference at the Quezon City Sports Club Wednesday to deny charges that they recruited military reservists for anti-government rallies.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Lucero said the three would face the full brunt of military law if an inquiry proves their guilt.

"We will not take these violations sitting down, and we will see to it that the appropriate action and punishment will be accorded those who violate these provisions," he said.

Amboy said that if he really wanted to recruit reservists training in Tanza, Cavite, he should have mined the pool of reservists in the National Capital Region of which he was group commander until he was relieved last December, and not in February as the military had earlier claimed.

'Dictates' of logic

"Logic dictates that I recruit from any of the five NCR reserve battalions under me," he said.

He also said he had passed up an opportunity to become vice commander of the Army Reserve Command's logistics unit and decided to wait for his retirement in August.

"I have been out of touch with the military since December and have been frequenting the hospital for my check-ups, which is a requirement for retirement," he said.

Amboy said reports of his recruitment activities were "baseless."

"Cavite is not even part of our area of responsibility," De Castro said. "What am I going to do in Cavite? I don't know anyone there and we were never based there."

According to De Castro, he served as battalion staff officer of the reservist unit covering the southern cities of Metro Manila, one of five such units in the NCR, until he was relieved in February.

Strong evidence

But according to Lucero, evidence against the three officers, including testimony from reservists as well as intelligence reports, is strong.

He said that by conducting a press conference, Amboy and De Castro might be in deeper trouble because military personnel were not authorized to address the media without clearance from higher-ups.

"They could be liable for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," he said.

Amboy, however, shrugged this off. He said he and De Castro deserved an apology from the AFP for the "injustice done to our persons."

"*Sige lang* (Go ahead)," Amboy said. "We will have our day of reckoning. It's up to them now."

The two officers said that the AFP "mishandled" the information it received on their alleged activities, and that reports on their supposed detention had had a negative impact on their respective families.

Internal wrangling

They also said the allegations against them were a result of the alleged internal wrangling in the Army Reserve Command.

"This issue is not supposed to be a political issue," Amboy said. "It's supposed to be an internal problem of the reservists. But the reserve force should be spared from these controversies because of all the good we have done in times of disaster. We even use our own resources."

'Worrisome'

In a phone interview, Honasan said he found it "worrisome" that the opposition continued to be "alluded to as a source of destabilization" efforts against the government.

"This is not good because you're creating more wounds and divisions," he said. "That's why whoever is proclaimed in June 2004 as the next president will have a difficult time governing the country."

Honasan urged the military not to engage in a "witch-hunt."

"I also suggest to the AFP and the defense establishment to address the issues of corruption and mismanagement within their ranks in order to regain their lost credibility," he said.

"It does not help that they are siding with a candidate," he said, adding that it was "very obvious" that the government was using resources and personnel for partisan activities.

Asked if he knew the three officers in question, Honasan said he knew Amboy because both of them were assigned to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija in the 1980s.

He said the last time he saw Amboy was last December, when the latter dropped in at his office in the Senate where he was hosting a Christmas party.

'Malicious'

In a phone call to the INQUIRER, Ernie Macahiya, spokesperson of the PGBI, decried military claims that the group had links with Amboy, De Castro and Eleazar.

"These [claims] are malicious. It's like Oakwood all over again," Macahiya said, referring to the failed July 2003 military takeover of the Oakwood building in Makati, of which Honasan was tagged as mastermind.

"We remain electoral. Why go extra-legal if we think we can win the elections?" he added.

Macahiya also said that the three officers were not members of the Honasan-led PGBI faction.

He said it was up to the military to investigate if the three were getting orders from "any civilian or politician."

"They may be violating some internal rules; we just don't know," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio*

THE GREAT DEBATE. From left (sitting) GMA Network executive vice president Jimmy Duavit, Jessica Soho, INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, GMA Network president Felipe Gozon and GMA 7 head of News and Public Affairs Marissa Flores. Back row (from left): INQUIRER's Talk of the Town editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr., Raul Roco's campaign manager Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, Bro. Eddie Villanueva's spokesperson Luis Sison, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, Ping Lacson's campaign manager Ronaldo Zamora, Eddie Gil's staff Elizabeth Samson, head of Fernando Poe Jr.'s media bureau Rod Reyes, GMA program manager for public affairs Ellen Ongkiko-Marfil, and INQUIRER's AVP for Strategic Marketing Communications Celine Madamba. JOAN BONDOC

3 bodies recovered by divers from sunken SuperFerry 14

From page A1

The relatives of the missing passengers and crew members joined the search for their loved ones as the tragedy entered its sixth day yesterday.

Photographs, flowers

More than 100 relatives boarded two sea vessels for Sisiman Bay in Mariveles, Bataan where the ferry was lying on its starboard side. They were joined by the PCG chief.

Some carried photocopied pictures of missing family members to distribute on shore, while others brought flowers to cast over the presumed resting places of their relatives.

Members of the Leyco family said they were offering P100,000 for any information on their missing mother.

A PCG official is losing hope anyone is still alive inside the ferry.

"I have read the stories of those who survived sinking ships because of air bubbles," Wilfredo Tamayo, the PCG official supervising the operation, told Reuters. "But in this case, it's very remote that there are survivors."

Cavite towns

Gosingan also joined 24 relatives of the missing who went to several Cavite towns to inquire of residents if they had seen or rescued anyone who could have been a passenger of the ship.

Interviewed on the phone at around 1 p.m. yesterday, Gosingan was in Ternate, Cavite with the relatives. He said the group also planned to go to Naic and later join the rest of the relatives who went to Mariveles to observe the rescue operations.

Gosingan said the relatives wanted to join the search because they were finding it hard to just wait for news and sit around doing nothing.

One of them was Maj. Eliseo Campued, former executive officer of the 18th Infantry Battalion based in Lamitan, Basilan.

He feared losing his sister Maj. Ophelia Bandarlipi and her 5-year-old son Adrian, among the missing passengers of SuperFerry 14.

Unbearable

Campued, now assigned to the 1st Tabak Infantry Division based in Pulacan, Zamboanga del Sur as deputy chief for operations, said it would be more unbearable for the family, especially to their ailing mother, Fortunata, 78, if his sister and nephew were confirmed dead.

"This is too much," said Campued , who almost lost his right leg in an encounter with Abu Sayyaf bandits on June 2, 2001.

He has been helping Coast Guard personnel in the search for the missing passengers. "I can't stand waiting at the hotel," he said.

Ophelia, who is also a nurse, was on her way to Cagayan de Oro City to attend to her ailing mother. From her base at the Philippine Navy Hospital in Cebu City, Ophelia went to Fort Bonifacio in Taguig to fetch her son Adrian before boarding the SuperFerry 14 for a trip to Cagayan de Oro.

Gosingan said that by letting the relatives join the search, the government was being transparent about its operations, especially in light of rumors that the PCG was hiding the missing passengers.

"Why would we hide them?" he asked.

Gosingan said he had ordered a plane to fly over areas outside where the ship caught fire to look for passengers who could have drifted.

He made the directive upon the request of one of the missing passenger's relatives.

"The request was granted to give them all satisfaction that we are doing everything we can to find their loved ones," he added.

Chavit for GMA but wife for Roco

From page A1

Instead, she enlisted in the "Women for Roco" (W4R) movement and has joined the group's tours and projects since the official campaign period started—distributing election materials in public markets, and mounting their own campaign "mini-rallies" when necessary.

W4R, led by Raul Roco's wife Sonia, holds its own out-of-town sorties to complement the efforts of Alyansa ng Pag-Asa's ticket.

"Evelyn is a great supporter of Women for Roco," said Lydia D. Castillo, a prominent W4R member.

The 62-year-old Evelyn is based in Manila. Chavit knows about her political activities, and leaves her be, she said in a phone interview. "He would sometimes tease me when Roco's rating drops. It's really fine with him."

Chavit is eyeing a comeback under the administration's K-4 coalition.

Evelyn said she decided to throw her support behind Roco because of her longtime friendship with Sonia. The two were classmates from grade school through high school at the St. Joseph's College in Quezon City.

"We're very close. We belonged to a circle of friends called Dekada," Evelyn said.

She went home to Vigan for her college studies, but "continued to meet (with the group) for the past 40 years. When Sonia started to campaign for Raul, we went with her."

Little things

However, she stressed, she also supported Raul's principles: "I believe in him. He is a very good person."

And so she does "little things" for the Roco camp, like "networking" with local leaders in her province. In fact, she said, she's in the thick of preparations for Alyansa's tour of Ilocos Sur next week.

Evelyn admitted that, between the two of them, Chavit is still the more politically influential in their province, and within the family.

"I have convinced only a few relatives," she said.

Their son Ronald and Chavit's brother Gerry are seeking seats in the provincial board under the K-4 coalition. A son-in-law, Justo Orros, is running for the same position in La Union, also under the administration ticket.

Asked how Roco might fare in her province, Evelyn said: "It's hard to tell. The three of them (candidates Macapagal, Roco and Fernando Poe Jr.) are all strong in their own way."

Women not necessarily for Roco have a different point of view.

Gabriela, Samakana and Migrante International—renowned nongovernment women's organizations—doubt that Roco, once dubbed "honorary woman," is truly advocating the women's agenda in his platform. But they're sure that Ms Macapagal is not.

Conscientious voters

The three groups junked the President's bid altogether, saying they had "tested" her and proven that she could not deliver even her most basic promises of food and shelter.

A recent study by the Center for Women's Resources concluded that women, having proven to be "more conscientious voters" than men, were a force to reckon with in the coming presidential race.

CWR executive director Gertrude Ranjo-Libang pointed out that 76.7 percent of registered women voters cast their ballots in the 2001 elections, accounting for more than half of the turnout that year.

"Women are a large source of votes, so candidates should heed them," Libang said in a forum at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, on Tuesday.

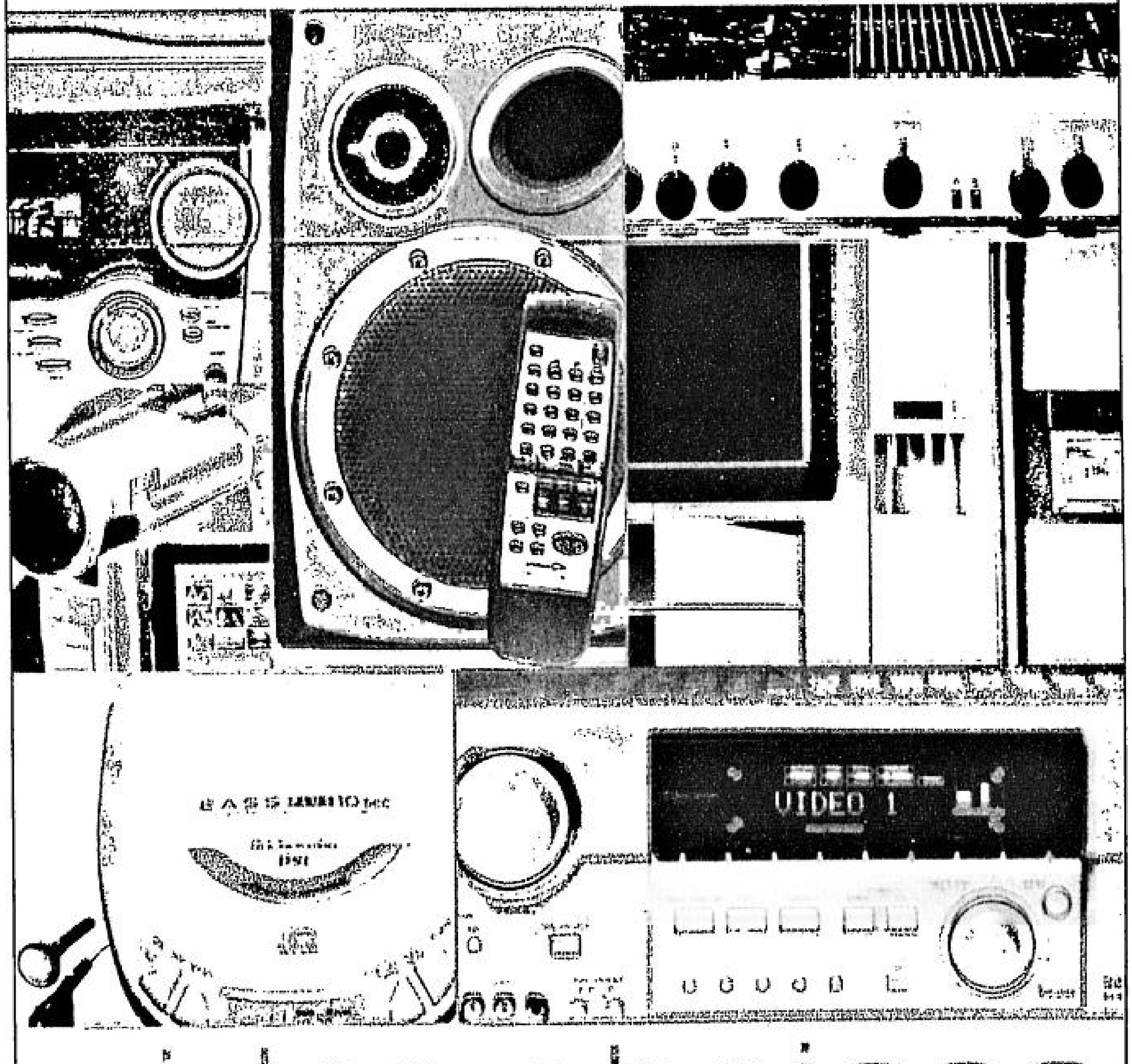
She said the CWR's annual Ulat Lila showed that women could not understand why Ms Macapagal could spend so much for debt servicing and defense, and neglect social services like health and education.

Nerissa Guerrero of Samakana, an urban poor group, added that women in her sector would definitely not support the President's bid for a term extension. By promising things she could not give, Guerrero said, Ms Macapagal "has made fools out of us."

No-vote zone

Migrante secretary general Maita Santiago added that Hong Kong, one of the three territories with the largest number of registered absentee voters, had been declared a "no-vote zone" for the President. Other countries with Migrante members were about to follow suit, she said.

Samakana and Migrante announced they were examining the Alyansa's platform, but former party-list Rep. Liza Masa insisted that Roco had a lot more to prove before he could lay true claim to the "women's vote." *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*



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Too early for GMA to celebrate, says analyst

From page A1

Manila goes, the country goes," he said.

Former Education Secretary Raul Roco was third with 17.9 percent, followed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson with 11.4 percent. Bro. Eddie Villanueva got 1.8 percent and businessman Eddie Gil got no support at all.

Machinery, no debate

A total of 6.6 percent of the respondents were undecided.

Malacañang said the machinery of an incumbent president and the statement of the actor he would not join the presidential debates allowed President Macapagal to overtake Poe.

At a briefing in Malacañang, Mike Defensor, campaign spokesperson for the President, attributed Ms Macapagal's gains to massive support by local officials and grassroots organizations and her leadership qualities.

Defensor cited another reason. "Secondly, we feel that in the case of Mr. Poe this (survey) is a reflection of the public to his statement to not join the (presidential) debate," he said.

Poe's refusal to join a public debate with Ms Macapagal may have affected his support among rich and middle-class voters, according to political strategist Reli German, who masterminded the landslide election victory in 1998 of movie star presidential candidate, Joseph Estrada, a friend of Poe's.

More in coming weeks

Defensor said the President's rating would pick up by 3 to 5 percent more in the coming weeks when the local machinery started to work.

Ms Macapagal will easily win because she has the support of local officials and candidates who deliver the votes, according to Defensor.

He also reminded that Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino had candidates in only 60 percent of the country.

Chess and checkers

Political risk consultant Jose Leviste of Polistrat International, one of SWS poll's sponsors, said Ms Macapagal was running a better campaign than Poe. "I certainly get the feeling that the President's handlers are playing chess and FPJ's handlers are playing checkers," he said.

SWS chief Mahar Mangahas said the Poe disqualification case was "the main election-related news event" of the past month. "I feel certain that it must be related somehow to these particular matters going on."

Consistent drop

"What is a significant and a major concern to handlers of (Poe) is his consistent drop throughout this period," German said.

"On the other hand (Ms Macapagal) has been steadily moving up in all areas practically," German noted at a public forum on the SWS survey results.

"Perhaps the stress of financial support not coming in—pending the resolution of the citizenship issue—is a major issue. He (Poe) can't move around that much," German said.

"Both camps are competitive toward the election period. However, it is too early for GMA (the President) to celebrate," Gatmaitan said in a phone interview.

Don't lose Luzon

Gatmaitan said Ms Macapagal's lead in the Visayas could still narrow when the campaign period for local elections started on March 25.

"GMA has the advantage of resources but she must be careful of losing Luzon," Gatmaitan said.

He said the President must work hard in Metro Manila to improve her standing.

The survey results showed 32 percent of voters in Metro Manila favored Poe, while 24 percent chose Ms Macapagal.

Opposition country

Bunye downplayed the President's low rating in Metro Manila, as well as in the rest of Luzon.

"Traditionally, Metro Manila is an opposition country," Bunye said.

"That is an expected trend because this is the center of the media and normally, the not-so-good news are read and heard by residents of Metro Manila," Bunye said.

He said the people in Visayas and Mindanao appreciate better the programs of the President.

Ignore surveys

Saying presidential surveys should not dictate the outcome of the elections, Alyansa ng Pag-Asa standard-bearer Raul Roco called on the public to stop believing in pre-election surveys.

He told reporters right after arriving in General Santos City that all opinion writers were converging on one opinion. "It is time to set aside and ignore the surveys because they can be all wrong. Maybe one is right, but it is very difficult to find who is right."

Roco said it was time to focus on the main purpose of a campaign-platform.

GMA grateful

"Thank you, thank you, thank you,'" was all a beaming Ms Macapagal could say about the latest survey results.

Talking to reporters during her campaign in La Union, the President said the results proved that it was right for her to "give more time to governance."

But Rep. Francis Escudero, Poe's campaign spokesperson, dismissed the latest polls, citing the overwhelming response the actor was getting at campaign rallies.

Trailing in Metro Manila, Ms Macapagal will be courting residents in the metropolis today.

Press Secretary Milton Alingod denied that the low rating of the President in Metro Manila prompted her to bring her campaign right into the country's capital.

"This (sortie) has long been planned," Alingod said.

Metro campaign today

Ms Macapagal is set to swing through Marikina, Quezon City and Caloocan this afternoon for caucuses with various sectoral groups and local constituents.

She would be accompanied by Sen. Noli de Castro, her running mate, and her senatorial candidates. *With reports from AFP and Michael Lim Ubac*

Palace gives Antonio conditional pardon

From page A1

ANTONIO: "Good behavior"

Antonio, a former official of the Games and Amusement Board and a close friend of ex-President Joseph Estrada, has already served seven years in jail, including credit earned for good conduct. He had shown "excellent conduct" while in prison, according to a records officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The NBP received the "official conditional pardon" from Malacañang yesterday, but the source stressed that the order "practically restricted Antonio to stay at home."

The source said that Antonio had told him after receiving the news he would be released that he could not celebrate because a younger brother had been convicted on a drug-related offense and was admitted to NBP last week.

Antonio was sentenced to reclusion perpetua, or 30 years in prison, and was also ordered to pay P50,000 to Tuadles' heirs, P226,298 in actual damages, P7,200 as compensatory damages for loss of earnings, P3 million in moral damages and P50,000 as exemplary damages.

However, Antonio appealed the judgment with the Supreme Court, which modified his conviction from murder to homicide on July 14, 2000. The court's first division also reduced Antonio's sentence from reclusion perpetua to a maximum of 14 years.

The 40-year-old Tuadles was shot at pointblank range with a laser-equipped Beretta 92F automatic pistol during a quarrel over a high-stakes game of *pusoy dos* (a variation of the Hong Kong card game called Big2) at the International Business Club on Wilson Street, Greenhills, a restaurant frequented by Estrada, on Nov. 2, 1996.

The place was also known as Club 419, said to have been taken from the birth date of Estrada, April 19.

After the shooting, Antonio surrendered to Estrada's son, then San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada. Then he went to see the elder Estrada, who was then Vice President, in Tagaytay City before finally giving himself up to police. Antonio was a longtime resident of San Juan where Estrada was mayor in the 1960s.

In reducing his sentence, the high court cited the absence of treachery. It said the killing of Tuadles could not qualify as murder since there was no aggravating circumstance.

"All the evidence shows that the incident was an impulse killing. It was a spur-of-the-moment crime," said the ruling penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago.

The high tribunal also affirmed the conviction of Antonio's co-accused, policeman Juanito N. Nieto, who was present at the card game but failed to arrest Antonio and did not even call for an ambulance after the shooting.

Nieto was also found to have intimidated IBC security guard Jose Bobis who had witnessed the shooting and whom the policeman tried to convince not to testify.

The high court, however, acquitted a third accused, policeman Honorio Cartalla Jr., who had been charged and convicted as an accessory for failing to produce during the trial the laser mechanism of the gun that was used in the killing.

Antonio and Tuadles were said to have quarreled over how Tuadles would pay his losses after the card game. Antonio said Tuadles had lost P46,200.

Antonio claimed that at the height of their argument, Tuadles grabbed the Beretta which was lying on top of a service table. He said the gun went off when the two grappled for possession of it.

The basketball player was hit between the eyes.

Murder suspect running . . .

From page A1

Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) is the lone candidate for the town's mayoral seat in the May 10 elections.

His mother, Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo, is seeking reelection in the province's first district. Ecleo's sister, Gwendolyn, is running unopposed for mayor of Dinagat town, also on Dinagat Island.

A younger brother, Allan, is serving his third and last term as mayor of San Jose. It was for this reason that the family decided to field Ecleo to take his place, Salatandre said.

The Ecleos are running under the administration party, Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats. They are also supporting reelectionist Sen. Robert Barbers, who hails from Surigao del Norte, and President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is seeking a full term.

On Monday, Ecleo was ordered freed by a Cebu regional trial court on P1-million bail for "humanitarian reasons."

Ecleo has been accused of killing his wife, Alona Bacolod, more than two years ago. He has denied the charge.

His impending freedom, albeit temporary, and his return to public office in San Jose have heightened the Bacolod family's fears for their safety.

"He might take revenge because we pursued the case against him and it was for that reason he was jailed," Alona's brother Ricky said yesterday.

He said family members were also afraid that Ecleo might harm their relatives who are still in Dinagat.

In a telephone interview, Ecleo's lawyer, Orlando Salantandre, dismissed as unfounded the fear of the Bacolods that they would be harmed.

Alona's parents and two other relatives were shot and killed by a PBMA member on June 19, 2002, in their house in Mandaue City in Cebu. The assailant was gunned down by responding policemen.

At the time of the attack, policemen and soldiers were storming the Ecleo family's mansion and PBMA stronghold in Dinagat, where the cult leader fled after a warrant for his arrest was issued by the court.

At least 16 of his followers were killed in the encounter before he finally surrendered.

Ricky and his other surviving siblings—Josebil, Nino and Chlea—have blamed their brother-in-law for the attack on their household, a charge that the cult leader has denied.

"Before he was arrested, it was hard for authorities to arrest him and many lives were involved before he finally surrendered," Ricky said.

Salatandre confirmed that his client was running for mayor of San Jose. He said Ecleo filed his certificate of candidacy in December last year through his brother Benglen.

No need to campaign

"Ecleo is running unopposed so there is no problem there. There is no need for him to campaign, the priority now is his health," he said.

On Monday, Judge Generosa Labra of the Cebu RTC Branch 23 reversed a ruling she issued in November, 2002, and allowed Ecleo to post bail after noting the cult leader's health condition and the lack of medical facilities at the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center.

The accused has been confined at the Chong Hua Hospital for a month after he complained of difficulty in breathing and severe chest pain.

Doctors have found that Ecleo had "cardiac abnormality" and described him as a "walking time bomb" who could die anytime from heart complications.

Cardiologist Walter Acusar has advised Ecleo to undergo coronary angiogram with angioplasty.

A brother of Alona, Josebil Bacolod, said his family had been informed by relatives and friends that the court's decision might have been influenced by politics although they could not confirm such information.

Politics involved

"The decision was really unfair. We suspected doubt that maybe, just maybe, politics is involved here. But we do not have proof. We only received feedbacks," Josebil said.

Salatandre belied insinuations that politics was behind the decision, saying the judge merely acted on the merits of Ecleo's motion for reconsideration.

"There was no political consideration here. The judge granted our motion because of the health condition of Ecleo. No less than the doctors of the city jail, as well as private doctors, testified in court about his serious ailments and illnesses. The judge was just fair," the lawyer said.

Salatandre said Ecleo's only concern now was to get well. The lawyer said he was waiting for the recommendations of physicians if Ecleo was fit to travel.

Ecleo is seeking a second medical opinion either at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City or the Medical City Hospital in Pasig City, Salatandre said.

The prosecution has filed a motion for the court to reconsider its decision to grant bail. The court will take up the motion today.

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2 cops, 3 guards killed in battle

By Christian Esguerra

TWO POLICEMEN and three security guards were killed in a fierce six-hour gun battle in a Bacoor, Cavite, subdivision Tuesday night.

PO2 Marius de Guia and PO3 Freddie Calvo died of multiple gunshot wounds after they and other policemen tried to pacify two warring groups of security guards at an unfinished government housing project in Barangay Area B.

Two of the slain guards were identified as Renato Pangilinan and Alfonso Tubo. Police said they may have belonged to a third group of security guards trying to settle the quarrel. The third guard was not identified.

Acting on a report of gunshots, two Bacoor policemen rushed to the area only to be met by about 40 guards of the Alert Security Agency and St. Michael Security Services trading shots at around 11 p.m.

The clash reportedly started after St. Michael guards tried to seize a guard from Alert.

Quoting witnesses, Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police chief, said some of the guards appeared to be drunk.

De Guia and Calvo were shot even after they identified themselves as Bacoor policemen, Rosales said.

He described the warring guards as being "really out of their minds. Instead of laying down their arms, they fired at us." *With Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Burton died in tub fall

JAKARTA—Friends of former Time magazine correspondent Sandra Burton, who was found dead in Bali, Indonesia, last week, said Wednesday she died after falling in the bathtub at her home.

"Sandy slipped in the bathroom and hit her head and suffered bad bleeding," said Edward A. Gargan, Asia bureau chief for Newsday.

He said Burton's partner Robert Delfs and a houseboy found her and conducted CPR but were unable to revive her. She was taken to hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival, Gargan said.

Memorial services would be held in coming weeks in Bali, Hong Kong, New York and Paris, Gargan said.

In the Philippines, former President Corazon Aquino said she was offering a Mass for Burton, whom she called a "great friend of the Filipino people." AFP

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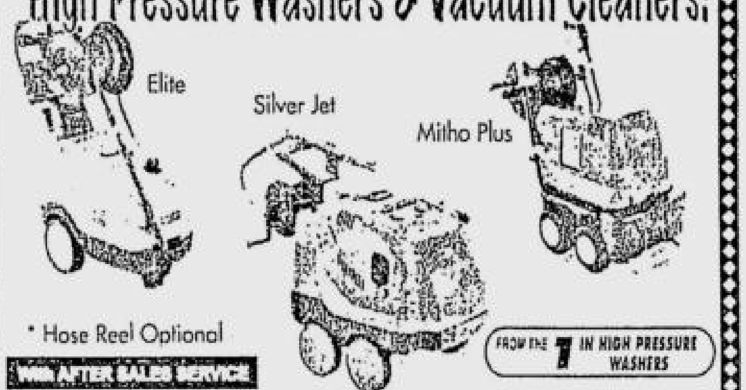
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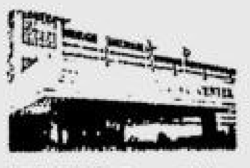

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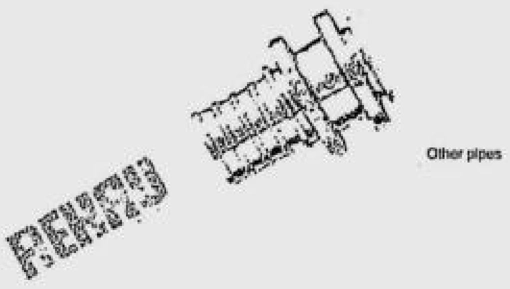
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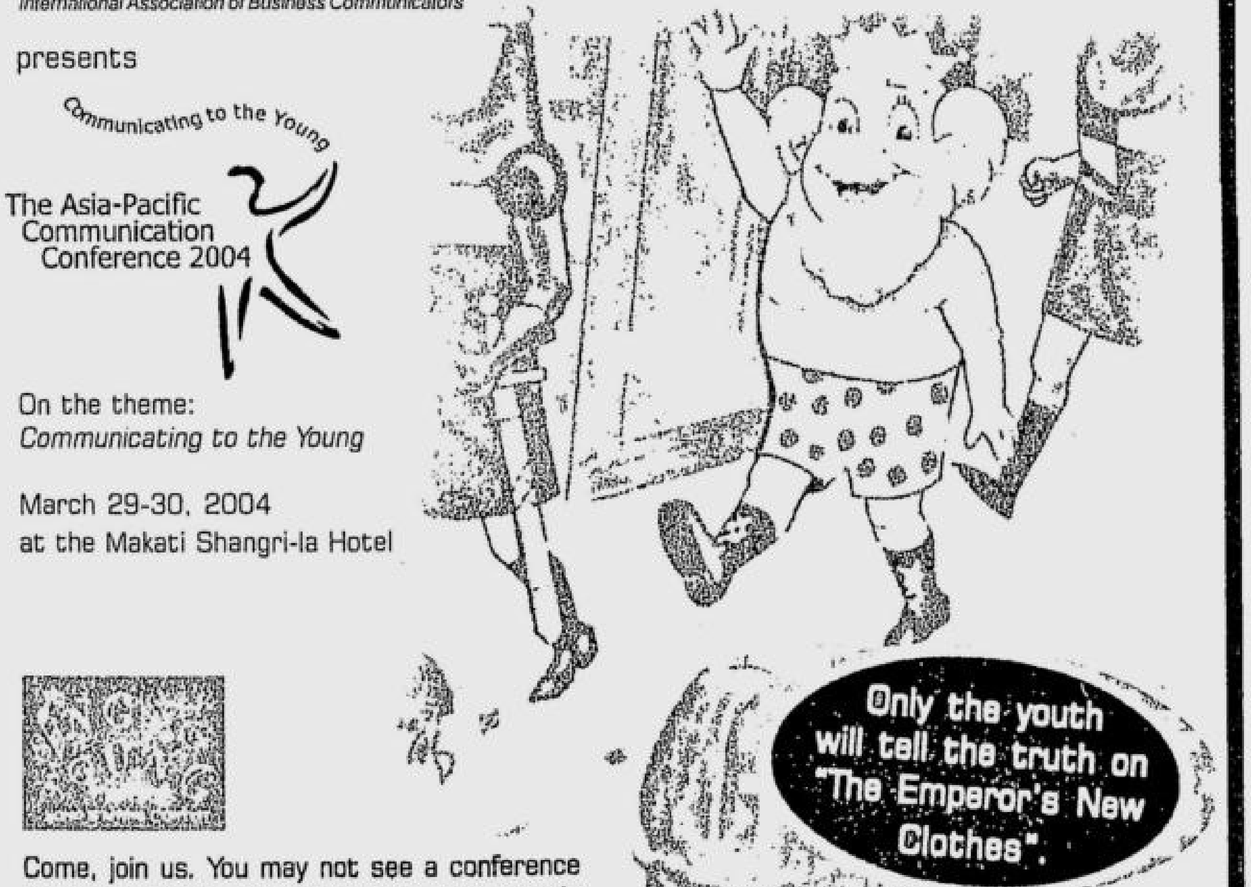
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- "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "Do It, Don't Say It" by the U.P. Anak Tibawan theater group and champion cheerdancers St. Benilde Pep Squad;
- CEOs, Presidents and senior executives of some of the biggest corporations to talk on how to understand better the youth market and audience.
- College editors and student leaders speak their minds on the issues that confront the Asian youth.

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TO THE U.P. COMMUNITY

The U.P. Bill is not a "legislative gift to the University". It represents a juicy retirement check for the overstaying U.P. President.

By law, all government employees must retire at age 65, the U.P. President included. He is appointed to a fixed term of six years, which he may serve before he reaches 65 years of age. Otherwise, he retires (Topacio Nuevo vs. Angeles, 76 Phil 12).

Under the U.P. Bill (SB 2587) the Board of Regents determines the compensation of the President of the University (Sec. 12). The Board also draws up the position classification and compensation plan (Sec. 10 k). If Nemenzo retires after the bill is enacted into law, he will enjoy a vastly larger retirement check. That is the real the gift that he is pursuing. No wonder he insists on overstaying despite the provisions of law.

Haven of Disruptive and Destructive Politics

Among the proposed purposes of the University is to "provide opportunities for training and learning in progressive leadership, responsible citizenship and the development of democratic values, institutions and priorities."

Translation: a nest of anti-establishment activities such as the cases in the Supreme Court filed by Nemenzo's wife, which would make the cost of electricity consumed by 129 rural electric cooperatives to go up.

Historically, U.P. has been a haven of this type of activity without enshrining it as a mandate in its charter. But not surprising, given the background and track record of Nemenzo.

Congressional Power Over the Purse

The Constitution vests upon Congress the power to appropriate public funds. Yet the bill seeks to reduce this power and limit Congress to appropriating a subsidy. That subsidy is hidden in Section 19, under "Grants and Other Real Propertiesof the University". It takes over the powers of Congress.

I offered to support the U.P. Bill that features, among them, the designation of U.P. as a National University "with academic standard of excellence competitive with those national universities in the region" and the exemption from the Salary Standardization Law (SSL) thereby increasing the pay of the staff of the university.

But Nemenzo insisted on illegally remaining in office for his personal benefit and chose to sacrifice the "singular gift" and his administration's "worthiest legacies". To demand that we follow the law is not "universal", Nememzo's greed is what stands in the way of its enactment.

U.P. Not Above the Law

The phrase "the provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding" appear all over the bill, in effect laws (like the Civil Service Law) are not applicable to U.P. This phrase can also be found in (1) regulations on leaves of absences (Sec. 10*k*); (2) removal from office (Sec. 10*k*); (3) extension of service beyond compulsory retirement age (Sec. 10*l*); (4) travel (Sec. 10.*q*); (5) rules for its own government and the discipline of its faculty and other personnel (Sec. 10 *t*); and (6) institutional autonomy (Sec. 21).

Control of the Board of Regents

There is a well-established balance in the Board of Regents. Nemenzo seeks to "demoralize" to tilt the balance in his favor. Also one must remember he retires in a year's time (at the end of his 6-year term at age 68) so he wants to control the choice of his successor. The Board of Regents elects the new President.

For All Filipinos (?)

The mission of U.P. is to "promote, foster, nurture and protect the rights of ALL citizens to quality education." U.P. has failed in these missions. One only needs to look at its enrollment: 50,000 in Luzon, 7,000 in the Visayas and less than 1,000 in Mindanao. Its only building in the Davao campus is half-finished. Year after year the appropriation U.P. gets from Congress is used up in Luzon.

University of the Rich

There is no denying that U.P. has become a rich man's school. It has a parking problem. Car ownership/use among U.P. students and faculty is higher than the other campus in Manila.

The tuition system is socialized but the highest bracket is only 25% of a compensative amount paid in Ateneo and La Salle. The children of a Senator a few years back were in U.P. when they could well afford Ateneo and La Salle given the father's law practice in one of the country's leading law firms.

Not Nemenzo v. Osmeña

It is an often used device to mask the issues in terms of personal conflicts.

We both fought Marcos but for different reasons. Myself to restore democracy and him to install a socialist state.

It is a conflict between one who believes in private ownership of capital, free market and republican government as against those who believe in state ownership and state control.

It is a conflict for the control of the National University to prevent its fall into the hands of people of destructive and disruptive politics.

SEN. JOHN H. OSMEÑA

Paid advertisement by Friends of Senator John H. Osmeña

Eternal Plans, Inc.

Since 1981

23 Years of Building the Future of the Filipino

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings to the board of directors, staff and the distinguished sales producers of Eternal Plans, Inc. on the occasion of your Annual Awards 2003 and 23rd Anniversary on March 4, 2004.

I commend you for uplifting the standard of your company despite many challenges and for turning what could be difficulties into opportunities. Your presence in the pre-need industry in our country contributes a lot to our national drive for progress and development.

I congratulate this year's sales producer's awardees for making it to the top. May this event serve as an inspiration to all to continually seek for excellence while providing quality services to your clients.

Our government is one with you in creating more jobs and providing opportunities for livelihood for our countrymen. Through unity, cooperation and dedication, we can lay the foundations for a modern and robust Philippine Republic that will ensure us a plenitude of economic benefits.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

I convey my heartfelt congratulations to the men and women of Eternal Plans, Inc. The blessings of the Lord rest upon you all as you celebrate your 23rd Year Anniversary.

The past year has posed many trials for the Filipinos as we experienced calamities both natural and man-made. Most tragic to these was the Southern Leyte mudslide in December. Many lives were lost and families have been displaced. In Iran, houses fell down and a bigger number of casualties have been reported.

During these times of great grief, the pre-need industry plays the role of the Good Samaritan. All of you in Eternal Plans among others, serve your mission as God has charted. It is God's will that you exist and continually grow surviving all trials no matter what.

On your 23rd Year Anniversary, do not forget to offer the fruits of your success to the Lord as you pray for His grace.

God bless you always!

GAUDENCIO B. ROSALES
Archbischop of Manila

First of all, congratulations to all the honorees and the top sales producer of the year of Eternal Plans, Incorporated.

Since the development of the country's financial and capital markets depends much on the close cooperation between the government and the private sector like Eternal Plans, I am pleased to note the invaluable contribution that the company has made since its founding 23 years ago. As the new Department of Finance Secretary, I encourage all of you to vigorously advance the thrust and vision of the company while you continue to reap individual successes in your common projects and group endeavors.

Thank you for helping the country move forward.

Happy 23rd Anniversary!

JUANITA D. AMATONG
Secretary, Department of Finance

Congratulations to Eternal Plans, Inc. on the celebration of its 23rd Anniversary and Annual Awards Night.

Cognizant of the important role that your company plays in the pre-need industry, allow me to commend you in your ceaseless efforts of providing benefits for memorial services, education and financial security upon retirement of our countrymen.

As regulator of the pre-need industry, the Securities and Exchange Commission enjoins your company and the industry to continue fulfilling your commitment to the millions of planholders so as to preserve their trust and confidence.

To the Top Sales Producers, directors, officers, staff and other honorees of Eternal Plans, keep up the good work and aim high for the growth of your company and the pre-need industry.

More power!

Lilia R. Bautista

LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Chairperson
Securities & Exchange Commission

I send my warmest greetings and congratulations to Eternal Plans, Inc as you mark your 23rd year in the pre-need industry. Another year on your third decade signifies the achievement of goals and fulfillment of your obligations.

As you venture towards another year of meeting your targets and goals, I thank each one of you for your tireless commitment and service as the leading pre-need provider and for pursuing the thrust our mission dictates that precipitates an enlightened mind to think of the future.

My sincere appreciation to our sales force in keeping the faith in spite of difficulties and for choosing to grow with the company. You are the gems of this organization.

Finally, let us offer our success to God Almighty who made us instruments to His wonderful plan for all people

Congratulations and More Power!

Ambassador ANTONIO L. CABANGON CHUA
Founder and Chairman Emeritus - EPI

For 23 years now, through its pension, education and life plans, **ETERNAL PLANS, INC.** has been helping people create the kind of life that they wish to have for themselves and their families. Over the years the company has served more than hundred thousand planholders and has given out more than a billion pesos in plan benefits.

For the year 2003, **ETERNAL PLANS, INC.** ranks among the **TOP 10 PRE-NEED COMPANIES** of the Philippines. Over the years, as one of the pioneering companies in the industry, **ETERNAL PLANS, INC.** has maintained its lead among pre-need companies. And despite the many difficulties that the industry and the country have experienced, **EPI** has grown and will become even bigger with each passing year. It shall deliver, as it did over the years, what it has committed to the thousands of planholders that it faithfully serves.

ETERNAL PLANS, INC. is an active member of the **Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies, Inc.** The Management of **EPI** believes that building the FUTURE of the Filipino and promoting the growth of the pre-need industry require the collaborative effort of all pre-need companies.

ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

6:00 PM • Embassy Ballroom
Traders Hotel Manila
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

EPI 2003 Top Sales Achievers

GOLDEN TREE AWARDS (ANNUAL CONTEST)

REGULAR SALES

District Manager Level

Thelma G. Cabila
1st Place, Biñan

Sales Counselor Level

Rosita Z. Puhawan
1st Place, Biñan

CHAIRMAN'S CUP WINNERS

REGULAR SALES

Area Manager Level

Renato M. Belarmino
1st Place, Biñan

District Manager Level

Thelma G. Cabila
1st Place, Biñan

Flora M. Princesa
2nd Place, Midsayap

Sales Counselor Level

Rosita Z. Puhawan
1st Place, Biñan

Marcelo M. Ma
2nd Place, Midsayap

TREASURER'S CHRISTMAS CHEERS

REGULAR SALES

District Manager Level

Thelma G. Cabila
1st Place, Biñan

Sales Counselor Level

Marcelo M. Ma
1st Place, Midsayap

HANDOG SA PANGULO WINNERS

REGULAR SALES

District Manager Level

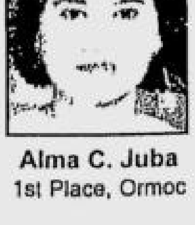
Alan P. Ygot
1st Place, Sto. Tomas

Sales Counselor Level

Fulgencio M. Torres
1st Place, Sto. Tomas

INSTITUTIONAL SALES

District Manager Level

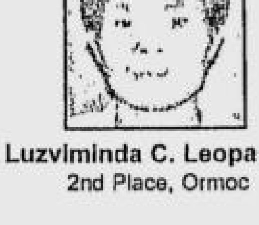


Alma C. Juba
1st Place, Ormoc

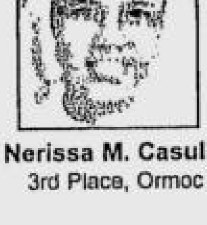
Gina F. Ronquillo
2nd Place, Urdaneta

Sales Counselor Level

Sarah F. Ronquillo
1st Place, Urdaneta



Luzviminda C. Leopardas
2nd Place, Ormoc



Nerissa M. Casulla
3rd Place, Ormoc

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FORTUNE LIFE INSURANCE CO., INC.

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FEDERATION OF PRE-NEED PLAN COMPANIES, INC.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Shiite leaders appeal for calm; death toll up

BAGHDAD—Shiite leaders called for calm as Iraq began three days of national mourning on Wednesday and prepared for the funerals of at least 170 people killed in a string of attacks officials said aimed to spark a sectarian war.

Iraq's Governing Council looked set to delay Wednesday's planned signing of an interim constitution, hailed as a major breakthrough in restoring democracy to the occupied country.

They said the delay was out of respect for the period of mourning and the document would be signed later in the week.

A wave of suicide bombings and mortar attacks on vast crowds of Shiite Muslim worshippers killed at least 170 people in Baghdad and Kerbala on Tuesday, according to religious leaders and the US military. More than 435 were wounded.

It was Iraq's bloodiest day since Saddam Hussein's fall. The coordinated blasts targeted Shiites marking the holy period of Ashura with mass gatherings in Iraqi cities.

Leaders of the country's 60 percent Shiite majority said the bloodbaths were intended to ignite civil war. The Iraqi Governing Council blamed a Jordanian who Washington says is working for al-Qaida and trying to fuel chaos in Iraq.

Iraq's top Shiite leader Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani criticized the US-led foreign occupiers for failing to provide enough security, but called upon Iraqis to remain united.

"We call on all dear Iraqi sons to be more vigilant against the schemes of the enemy, and ask them to work hard to unite and have one voice to speed up regaining the injured country's sovereignty and independence and stability," Sistani said.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said the attacks could undermine the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty.

"The secretary general urges all Iraqis to refrain from acts that could undermine efforts to achieve national reconciliation at this delicate stage of the country's political situation," Annan's spokesperson said.

Tuesday's near simultaneous attacks ripped through an annual ritual—banned under Saddam—during which Shiites beat their heads and chests and cut their heads with swords to honor a revered figure killed in battle 1,324 years ago.

Iraqi police said three suicide bombers detonated themselves in Baghdad and one in Kerbala, where attackers also used mortars and bombs hidden around the holy shrines.

A fourth man rigged with explosives was detained in Baghdad before detonating himself, and was being interrogated.

Several Governing Council members blamed the blasts on Abu Musab Zarqawi, a Jordanian whom Washington suspects of being behind a series of major attacks in Iraq. *Reuters*

Pakistani Shiites also attacked

QUETTA, Pakistan—Troops patrolled the southern Pakistani city of Quetta on Wednesday, imposing a curfew after an attack on minority Shiites killed 44 people and 13 more died in a stampede triggered by fears of religious violence.

Relatives of victims of Tuesday's gun and grenade massacre in Quetta had to rely on military vehicles to take them to hospital, where nearly 140 people lay wounded, some of them seriously.

Soldiers armed with automatic rifles and machine guns patrolled rubble-strewn streets and burned-out shops set alight by enraged Shiites in the city of 400,000 people.

Funerals were expected to be held under military guard later in the day.

In the remote tribal town of Para Chinar, at least 13 Shiite Muslim worshippers—eight women and five children—died on Tuesday in a stampede during another ceremony to mark Ashura, one of the minority Muslim sect's holiest days.

Dr. Syed Amjad Hussain said the women panicked, thinking a power failure that put out the lights was instead a new attack by majority Sunni Muslim militants. They tried to rush out of a two-story building, causing a staircase to collapse. *Reuters*

CROWDS of mourners bear the flower-laden coffins of the dead through the streets of the sacred city of Kerbala, Iraq, on Wednesday. A wave of suicide bombings and mortar attacks on crowds of Shiite Muslim worshippers killed at least 170 people in Kerbala and Baghdad, according to religious leaders and the US military. REUTERS

Kerry secures Democratic nomination

WASHINGTON—John Kerry captured the Democratic nomination to challenge President George W. Bush in November, scoring a string of coast-to-coast wins on Tuesday that knocked rival John Edwards out of the race.

Kerry, who received a call of congratulations from Bush, quickly turned his focus to the general election and said he was "a fighter" who would challenge the president on a range of issues.

"Tonight the message could not be clearer, all across our country, change is coming to America," Kerry told supporters in Washington. "With one united Democratic Party, we can and we will win this election."

The Massachusetts senator continued his domination of the Democratic race on its biggest night of voting, scoring wins in nine states including victories in Georgia, Minnesota and Ohio, which had been targeted by Edwards.

The wins capped a spectacular political resurrection for Kerry, whose campaign was considered dead just two months ago but charged back to life as Democrats began to evaluate which candidate stood the best chance to beat Bush in November.

Kerry and Bush now embark on what promises to be a hard-fought, eight-month general election campaign. Bush, who trails Kerry in some opinion polls, launches his first television ads in 17 battleground states on Thursday as he starts to spend a more than $100 million campaign war chest. *Reuters*

Rebel leader declares self Haiti military chief

PORT-AU-PRINCE—One of Haiti's rebel leaders defied the United States and declared himself chief of the military and police on Tuesday, and his ragtag band of fighters tried to arrest the prime minister.

The presence of US forces, part of a Marine deployment sent by President George W. Bush on Sunday hours after President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fled into exile in the face of a month-long revolt, prevented self-styled leader Guy Phillipe's men from seizing Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, an Aristide appointee.

As the seeds of possible tensions were sown between the US-led force and the former soldiers and accused death squad leaders who helped oust Haiti's first elected leader, Washington warned the rebels to toe the line.

"All illegal and armed groups should lay down their arms.

The rebels need to disband and go back to their homes," said state department spokesperson Richard Boucher.

But Philippe, speaking at a news conference earlier, said he was Haiti's military leader. Hundreds of rebels, many in military fatigues and brandishing automatic weapons, have entered the capital city since Aristide flew to Africa.

"I am commander in chief of the national resistance front, military chief," the former police chief, 36, said, surrounded by his gunmen and members of the Haitian National Police.

He also said he would obey the orders of acting president Boniface Alexandre, who took over as stipulated by the constitution but whose appointment has been questioned because of the absence of a parliament to approve it.

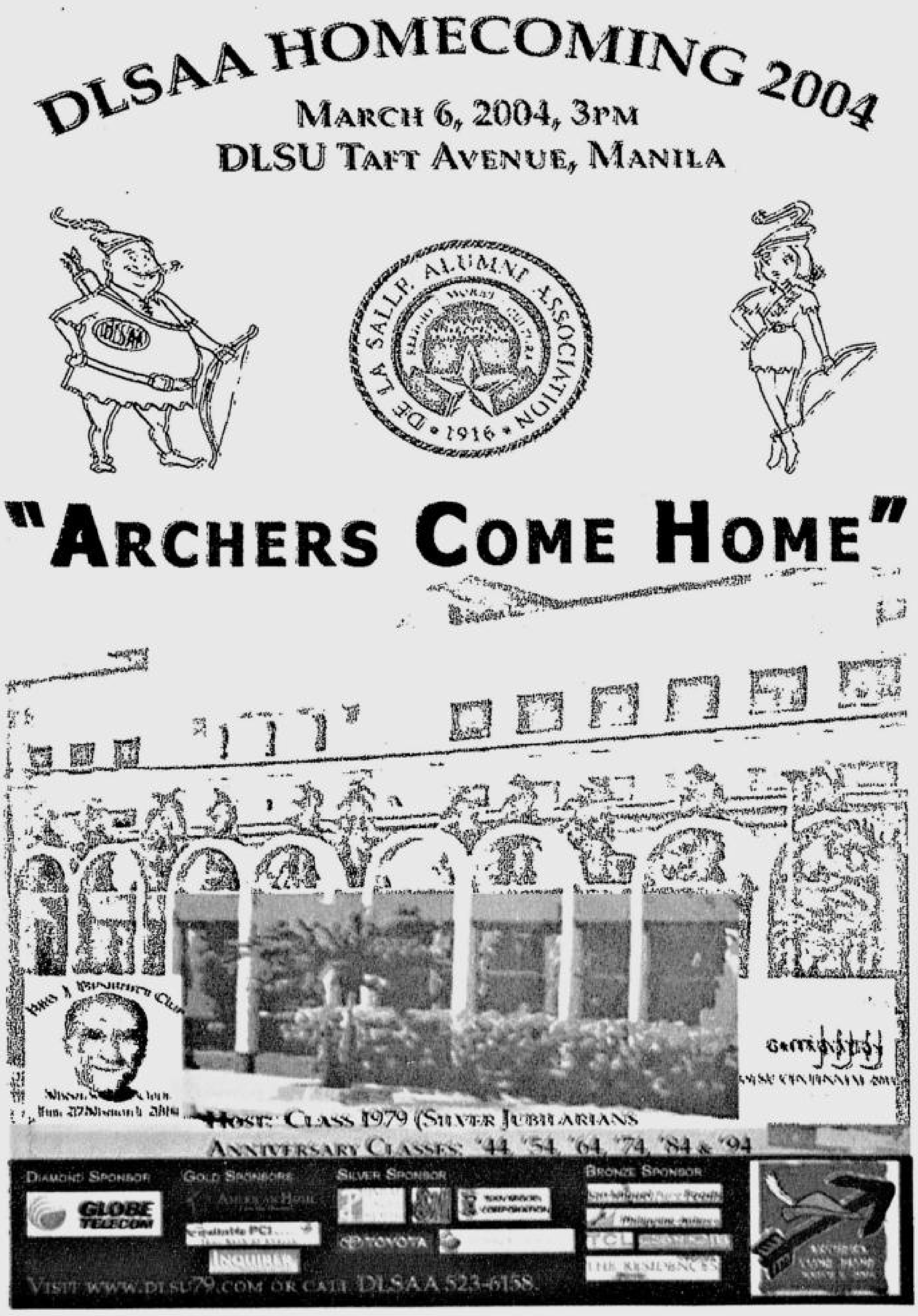
At the same time, he appeared to warn Alexandre when he said that the "people of Haiti will talk to him as they talked to Aristide" unless he creates a new army.

Asked who had named him Haiti's security chief, Philippe merely said, "The Haitian people."

The US military in Haiti would step up it presence in the streets in response to Philippe's declarations, Col. David Berger, commander of the multinational force, said.

In a sign that the rebels were not in total control, they failed in a bid to arrest Neptune. A rebel convoy arrived at Neptune's house in Port-au-Prince, but turned away after seeing US forces guarding the residence.

The presence of former death gang leaders among the rebels' leadership has alarmed human rights activists, who were further dismayed on Tuesday at news that deposed dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier wanted to return as soon as possible. *Reuters*



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WORLDBRIEFS

More prison time for smoking

WINNIPEG—For a 73-year-old Canadian man, 20 months in a smoke-free jail looked just too long, so instead he took 24 months in a prison where he can smoke cigarettes. Angelo Foti was sentenced to 20 months for shooting and wounding a man in his backyard who was trying to repossess a snowmobile sold to Foti's son, the Winnipeg Free Press reported Tuesday. In court Monday, Angelo Foti was agitated when he realized the sentence would mean he would be in a provincial jail, where smoking is banned, the newspaper said. Foti's lawyer pleaded for a 24-month sentence instead, which means the man will go to a federal prison, where smoking is allowed. In accepting the longer term, Foti, a dedicated pack-a-day man, ignored the wishes of this family. *Reuters*

Girl thought dead found alive

PHILADELPHIA—A 6-year-old girl thought to have died in a fire as an infant has been found alive after being raised by a woman who may have set the blaze and abducted the baby, authorities said. DNA tests confirmed on Monday that Delimar Vera is the biological daughter of Luz Cuevas, who recognized her daughter by her dimples in a chance meeting at a birthday party in Philadelphia two months ago. "When she smiled she had eye dimples and when she was a baby she had dimples," Cuevas told local television. The woman who raised Delimar, Carolyn Correa, 41, of Willingboro, New Jersey, surrendered to police on Tuesday. She is charged with 15 offenses, including kidnapping, aggravated assault and arson. Police suspect Correa, thought to be distantly related to the girl's father, set the December 1997 fire in Philadelphia as a cover that would allow her to abduct the child. *Reuters*

Wine thief steals wrong bottle

BERLIN—Rather than give up his prize, a German wine thief cornered in a bar gulped down the contents of a stolen bottle, only to vomit repeatedly as the landlady had switched the wine with vinegar, authorities said Monday. "He was caught in the act and fell over while running away," said a spokesperson for police in the southern town of Schwabach. "I guess he thought 'I'd better make the most of this' and drank the stuff. Then he vomited up it and everything else he'd drunk." Police said several bottles of wine had recently been stolen from the bar, and the landlady had replaced the wine with vinegar before the inebriated 19-year-old struck. Her partner detained the retching thief until police arrived to arrest him. *Reuters*

Boar goes wild

BERLIN—A German hunter stabbed a wild boar to death in a stairwell after the beast rammed through the bolted front door of an apartment building and stormed up to the sixth floor, a Berlin newspaper reported Tuesday. The beast from the local forest sped past a group of children playing outside and into the building in a Berlin suburb, probably in search of food. Petrified neighbors peered through their spy holes fearing their doors would not hold—and called 36-year-old hunter Conrad Moyer. "I grabbed him around the neck and then stabbed him square in the heart with my hunting knife," Moyer told the BZ daily newspaper, which showed him in traditional green hunter's hat and camouflage kit dragging the carcass away. Wild boar often cause havoc in Berlin. Last April one jumped into bed with an elderly couple and in January a man was hospitalized by a boar when it crashed into his living room *Reuters*

Malaysia's PM calls for snap polls

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said parliament will be dissolved on Thursday, paving the way for a snap election within weeks that will be a referendum on his four-month rule.

Abdullah took over from Mahathir Mohamad on Nov. 1 when the veteran leader stepped aside in favor of his deputy after 22 years in power.

The ruling multi-ethnic coalition is sure of winning an election, but the 64-year-old son of a respected Muslim scholar needs to strengthen his grip on power by solidly defeating the conservative Islamist opposition.

Abdullah met the king on Wednesday amid heated speculation he would take advantage of an accelerating economy and booming stock market to call for an election that was not due until November.

"His Majesty the King has given his consent for the dissolution of 10th parliament effective March 4 to pave the way for the 11th general election," Abdullah said in a statement issued by state news agency Bernama.

Polls must follow within 60 days of parliament's dissolution.

But the election commission is likely to set the date much sooner, with speculation fixed on March 20 as it is the end of a weeklong school break, and schools serve as polling centers.

The main stock market index, which was just a few points short of 900 points on Tuesday, slipped back 2.44 percent to by mid-afternoon as investors took profits.

Stocks have undergone a characteristic pre-election rally—the benchmark index gained eight percent in the last month, though it lagged other Asian indices over the past year.

The new prime minister, an ex-civil servant and a long-time presence in Mahathir's cabinets, has earned plaudits at home and abroad by marking the start of the post-Mahathir era with an anti-corruption campaign and a call for ethical governance. *Reuters*

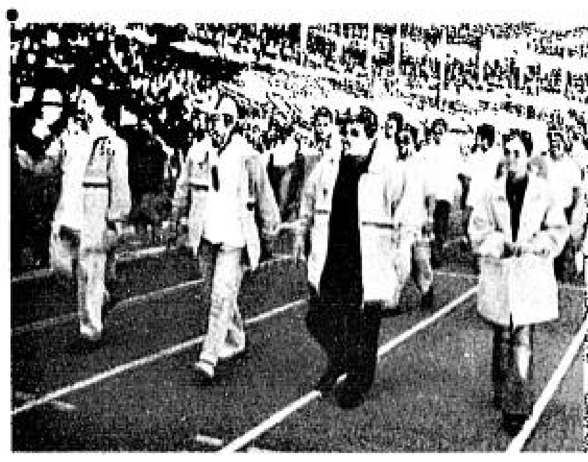
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

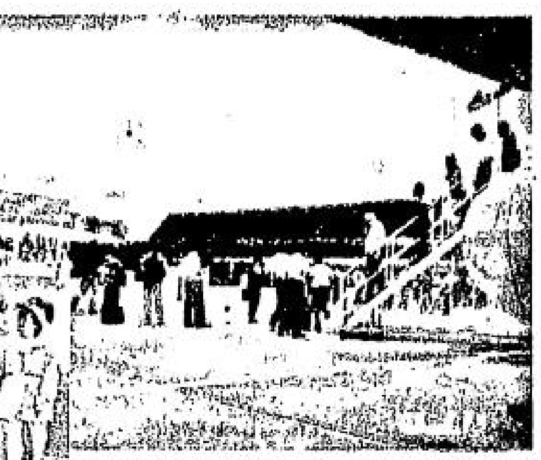
Puerto Princesa celebrates 132nd Founding Anniversary

Mayor Ed Hagedorn

The people of Puerto Princesa have good reasons to celebrate.

In only 15 months since the recall election. . .

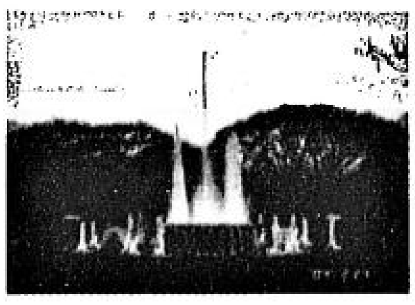


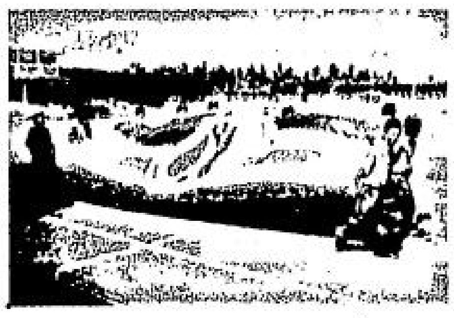


Naibalik na
Ang Sigla ng Puerto Princesa

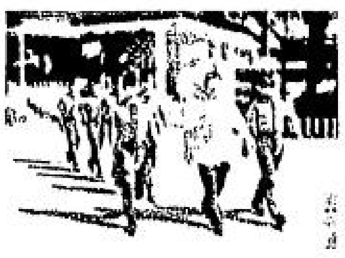
Tourist arrivals have dramatically increased. There are now three flights arriving daily, by PAL, by Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific. And three inter-island ferries (two by WG & A and one by Negros Navigation) weekly.

Among groups hosted:
- Philippine Councilors Leauge
- International Conference on Ecological Economics
- Philippine National Youth Games
- 7th Meeting of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Working Group on Fisheries Cooperation
- 5th BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games
- 22nd Asian Boxing Championship, Olympic Pre-Qualifying Tournament
- MIMAROPA Regional Athletic Meet
- National Skateboard Competition
- National Open Sepak-Takraw Championship
- Two Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Games
- Tour Pilipinas





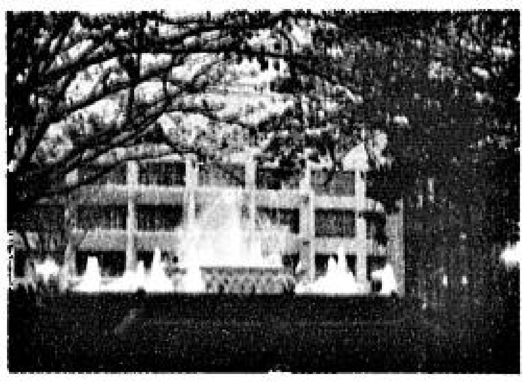
In 1894, the Spanish government declared Puerto Princesa the cleanest city in the Philippines.... 100 years later, in 1994, Puerto Princesa received the first of many awards for cleanliness



Ang Dangal ng Puerto Princesa

Various awards received by the City attest to inspired leadership and good governance that have improved the lives of Puerto Princesans.

- BEST POLICE STATION AWARD 2002 - 2003 Region IV - 85% success rate for the city's anti-drug campaign
- THE KRUSADANG BAYAN AWARD of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) campaign to make the city jueteng-free
- TEN OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES AWARD - Mrs. Ellen Hagedorn Oplan Linis Program Manager
- CHAMPION - National Open Men's and Women's Sepaktakraw Championship
- CHAMPION - MIMAROPA Regional Athletic Association Meet (March 2003)
- NATIONAL LITERACY AWARD FOR MOST OUTSTANDING LGU, MIMAROPA REGION for the city's successful non-formal education program (September 19, 2003)
- NUTRITION GREEN BANNER AWARD, MIMAROPA REGION for the city's nutrition program (October 2, 2003)
- MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIVE LGU for the city's Waste Management



Ang Kaunlaran ng Puerto Princesa

Puerto marches on with sustainable development, environmental protection and activism, as in the annual "Love Affair with Nature", a Valentine's Day mangrove reforestation project of Tagbalay Foundation.

- MODERN COLISEUM completed
- A $50 MILLION Solar-powered plant for Barangay Electrification
- An ULTRA MOERN WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - P150 MILLION Sanitary Landfill
- An INTERNAIONAL MOTOCROSS EVENT with riders from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand (March 28, 2004)
- BALIKATAN 2004 with $4 MILLION in medical services, infrastructure and equipment
- OPENING OF DIRECT FLIGHTS between Malaysia and Puerto Princesa by Layang Layang Airlines

And in the years to come...

IPAGPATULOY ANG SIGLA, ANG DANGAL AT ANG KAUNLARAN NG PUERTO PRINCESA

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 87
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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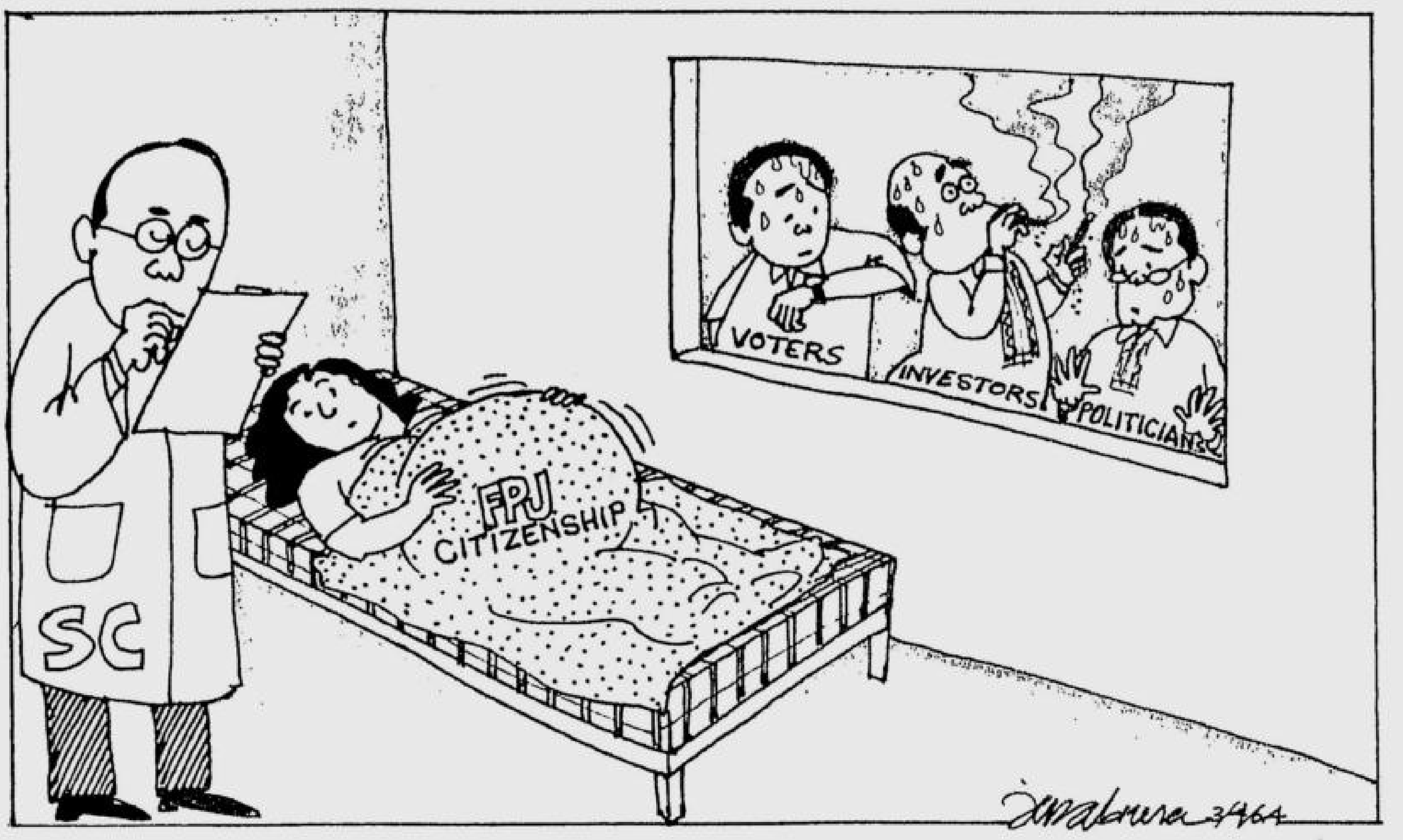

EDITORIALS

Sellout

THE TOPNOTCHER of the recent board exams for medical graduates makes no bones about his target: big bucks. He means to make his pile as a nurse in the United States, where the demand for nurses is such that Filipinos with a nursing degree are heading there literally in droves. He notes that nursing jobs in the land of plenty command "six-digit" monthly salaries in Philippine pesos, earnings that, he says, have left his former classmates now settled and working there "fully satisfied" and convinced that "it's really worth it."

And he epitomizes a poignant twist in the Filipino quest for employment overseas, a "trend," he calls it: physicians returning to school to acquire the precious nursing degree that would equip them to join the foreign legion now laboring in US hospitals. (It's said that certain medical schools have put up special sections for such "students," the point apparently being that they are quite apart from those who come in cold.)

Disturbing? But you could say that Elmer Reyes Jacinto is well within his rights to plan his life according to the dictates of commerce, no matter that by his own reckoning, he is no stranger to books and, presumably, to the life of the mind. He grew up in Lamitan, Basilan, in a neighborhood not unlike many others in the archipelago, where sons and daughters fly off to various points on the planet with the end in view of sending money home to their families. (This sort of flight is actually nothing new. Even in speakeasy-era America, the ex-gumshoe Dashiell Hammett was already writing about some Filipino sullenly waiting tables or a Filipino houseboy opening a decaying mansion's front door and immediately melting into the shadows. Of course, the flight has become an exodus since then, even to parts unknown and therefore exceedingly dangerous.) His parents see in nursing a "big opportunity," and are generous in their encouragement.

In fact, as Jacinto himself tells it, his father has come to grips with the paramount value of money and where it can be found: "There's no money in writing." But in nursing there is, according to the father's estimation—a point that the son has taken to heart.

This is what we have come to in this country of our afflictions, where young (28), bright (magna cum laude in medicine) offspring of middle-class professionals (teachers in mathematics, science and English), yet unencumbered by the challenges of life (single, no children), throw in the towel before even putting up a fight.

What a sellout.

Commitment

ONCE upon a time in the not too distant past, a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine received his license to practice and shortly thereafter traveled to poverty-stricken Samar to take up a post as community health officer in one of its towns.

The year was 1979 and Dr. Remberto "Bobby" de la Paz was 27. He would eventually return to Manila to marry the woman he loved, a physician like himself, and bring his bride back to the same province, there to employ their intelligence and training to care for the ailing.

It was hardly, as anyone remotely familiar with conditions in the countryside would know, a situation guaranteed to put Bobby and Sylvia de la Paz in clover. Not by any stretch of the imagination could it have been a money thing, as one Dr. Juan Flavier or other "doctors to the barrios" would agree, perhaps wistfully. (Think payments in terms of a bundle of eggplant, six eggs, perhaps a live chicken. Think of scant medical supplies, or hurrying to a sick patient on foot, in the dark, on the equivalent of the proverbial 10 miles of bad road.) But by accounts, the couple were committed, not only to the Hippocratic Oath but also to a passion: the necessity of bringing their considerable talents and skills to bear on a situation so bereft, so starkly impoverished, it cannot but be deemed unjust. The example set by the De la Pazes would be so evocative of hope in these times of despair if not for the fact that Bobby is gone now. In April 1982, a gunman pumped him full of bullets; he died hours later, leaving a widow and a son.

The couple's commitment turned out to be a dangerous badge to carry, particularly in the dark days of martial law, and it resulted in their being suspected as communist sympathizers. Bobby's killing has yet to find resolution.

And this is what we have come to in this country of our affections. It's enough to drive one to weep.

Senate changing of the guard

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

IN HIS INQUIRER column, Ambeth Ocampo wished he'd "been born 30 years earlier, so I could... have seen the Philippine Senate in an age that now seems legendary." The historian in him yearned to have tracked giants Claro M. Recto or Jose Diokno on the Senate floor.

Ocampo's longing resonates in ordinary people. Many sneer at a Senate today peopled by dwarfs: from toilet-humor comedian Tito Sotto to failed-coup expert Gringo Honasan.

But it's changing of the guard time. Twelve Senate seats will fall vacant. And thrice that number are scrambling to fill them. Innocent of proven competence and substantive service, many assume they're in the same league as Benigno Aquino or Lorenzo Tañada.

These recall a less-momentous "changing of the guard," nearly four decades back, at the Senate Press Gallery. Evening News foreign affairs reporter Jacobo Clave slipped into press row to take over the Senate beat. I was moving to the news desk. "Just one suggestion, Jake," I said. "Keep your eye on that (*expletive deleted*) newcomer named Ferdinand Marcos."

The Senate press box today remains a front seat into history. The older ones, who worked out of it, did see a Senate "in an age," as Ocampo put it, "that now seems legendary." The legislators included Camilo Osias, Claro Recto, Quintin Paredes and Cipriano Primicias and "young Turks" then: Emmanuel Pelaez, Gil Puyat and Raul Manglapus. By their performance and insights, they were shaped by a tradition that Manuel Quezon, Sergio Osmeña Sr. and Manuel Roxas blazed: the Senate as training ground for future presidents.

Elected at large, senators viewed issues with broader vision than their parochial counterparts in the Lower House. "When Congress makes a joke, it's a law," Will Rogers once cracked. "When it makes a law, it's a joke."

The Senate did provide balance needed for governance beyond cramped congressional fiefdoms. Ambrosio Padilla, Lorenzo Sumulong or Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo effectively bridged differences.

And always, there was the over-riding factor of impeccable credentials.

"Look at Oscar," Senator Tañada told reporters in press row, pointing to the simply-dressed Sen. Oscar Ledesma quietly working at his desk. "No airs. See his simple *barong. Pero walang utang 'yan.*

Tañada, who never wasted praises, then added of the self-effacing former city mayor, commerce secretary and ambassador : "Not a breath of scandal either. The perfect gentleman."

Today, the Senate's name is mud. Few would weep if it were scrapped. Why? How did so valuable an institution become so devalued?

The abolition of bloc voting in 1956 eroded the two-party support for senators, who were then left to fend on their own. Columnist Manuel Quezon III points out: "It also meant 'electability' became even more crucial."

Matinee star Rogelio de la Rosa's 1958 election breached the old system, now swamped with tinsel celebrities who'd sit where a luminary like Jovito Salonga once did. "(They) know nothing and think they know everything," George Bernard Shaw noted. "That points to a political career."

Communications and a dictatorship's aftermath throw additional light on the bloc-voting wedge.

"Stardust" electability hinges on still-evolving communication. The cell phone which helped trigger People Power II spread over the world in 11 years, compared to electricity's 46 years. But name recall, from multimedia, can turn into an opiate for a people addicted to circuses.

The dictator padlocked the Senate, assuring no rival emerged from there. "Nothing grows under the canopy of a banyan tree."

Marcos shattered flawed institutions and installed a kleptocracy that lupus cut short. This saw an incompetent actor emerge as president and ending in the clink.

There are decent competent senators today, Joker Arroyo and Juan Flavier among others. But they work in a Senate of devalued systems: from impeachment to committee reports and "probes in aid of legislation."

The "Craven Eleven" triggered the People Power II revolt by obstruction of justice. And "probes in aid of legislation" inavariably fizzle out. The Senate investigation of the Oakwood Mutiny, like others, went pffft.

The Senate "probed" alleged falsification of Fernando Poe Jr.'s birth certificate and his parents' marriage certificate. The senators who accused also served as judges and wrote up their adverse "findings." They are the same lawmakers hawking "Da King": Sotto, Edgardo Angara, Loi Estrada, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Honasan et al.

Reaction by a Claro Recto or a Jose Diokno to such brazen lack of *delicadeza* would be unprintable. "A kangaroo trial," an observer said. No, it's a libel against the kangaroo.

"When such legislators die, don't just stay away from their funerals," Mark Twain suggested. "Instead, write a nice letter saying you approve."

We've stumbled into what historian Barbara Tuchman calls the "Age of Disruption"—a period when swift unsettling changes slaps a premium on that "rarest of resources": competent visionary leadership. And here come Jinggoy, Lapid, Jaworski et al. offering puff.

In late 1986, there was a "changing of the guard," this time in Rome. Marcos, his family and cronies had fled. Ambassador to Italy and the Food and Agriculture Organization Jacobo Clave was being recalled.

At the *despedida*'s end, we shook hands. "This is no way to say goodbye." I said. "But Jake—I told you so."

Still, surveys

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE BAD news is that Ibon doesn't have the resources of either the Social Weather Stations or Pulse Asia. The good news is that it is a little more impervious to blandishment. The bad news is that Ibon doesn't have the methodological sophistication of either SWS or Pulse Asia. The good news is that it has its feet planted on the ground.

Among the three survey outfits, no one understands the thinking of the *masa* better than Ibon. Its credentials there are unassailable. Its people do not just descend on the *masa* armed with tape recorders and questionnaires. They have lived with then. Or many of them have.

Their latest findings on the relative acceptance of the presidential candidates at this point seem more believable. They are at least more consistent with what you see, read and hear from media and people from different provinces. Those findings show Fernando Poe Jr. topping the field with 30 percent of 1,315 respondents, Raul Roco trailing him with 19 percent, and GMA third with 16 percent. It is not unlike the SWS survey, except for the standings of Roco and GMA. In the SWS survey, GMA at second, leads Roco by a mile.

Like I said last week, it's hard to believe how GMA, who got her worst approval ratings ever only a few months ago, should suddenly find herself the apple of the voters' eyes. Particularly at a time when the peso is falling to an all-time low and the prices of goods are spiraling even before the elections. The first affects businessmen while the second affects housewives. The only thing GMA seems to have done right was to persuade Noli de Castro to run with her. But surely that has a limited mileage too?

Antonio Tujan, Ibon's chief, like Pulse Asia's Felipe Miranda, says the elections are still up for grabs. That is because of the high number of undecided—22 percent (it was 35 percent in Pulse Asia). The tide could still swing for or against the individual candidates. The case for that is bolstered by an analysis of recent surveys by market-research experts Ned Romero and Andy Roberto, which appeared in the Business section of the INQUIRER on Feb. 27. Their article, "Research shows presidential contest is still three-way," is by far the most thorough I've seen on the subject in a popular medium.

Romero and Roberto's contention is that you can't really know how a product stands from one survey, you can only know it from a series of surveys. Intention does not naturally translate into action. As their experience shows, a large percentage of people who express their preference for a product at one point change their minds eventually. The more reliable gauge of product support is the consistent percentage it gets over time. That is the product's (or candidate's) "*puhunan*" or capital. "What's the steady stable range of vote ratios that these six time periods define for each candidate? If you do this carefully, these ranges are as follows: FPJ has 14-16 percent, GMA has 15-17 percent, Roco 18-19 percent, and Lacson 10-12 percent."

Roco in fact has the most number of "hardcore" followers, according to this analysis. But not by much. Those who now express a preference for a candidate who do not belong to his "hardcore" group can still be won over by any of the other candidates. That is why the elections are still up for grabs.

I've only a couple of caveats to this. The first is that there is a factor at work in elections that is not there in product preferences. That is the fear of the "wasted vote." Of course, in product preferences you also have a bandwagon effect: People will prefer the popular brand in the same way that shoppers will flock to a shop that has a crowd in it. You assume the place offers a better product, or deal. But you won't abandon a product you know, or like, simply because of it. In an election, you can. From the fear the candidate you know, or like, can't win, better if you just voted for a strong second best to prevent someone you dislike from winning.

That happened in 1992. I know people who liked and admired Jovito Salonga who voted for Fidel Ramos or Ramon Mitra because they figured Salonga didn't have a chance and they did not want Danding Cojuangco to win. What that means is that even a "hardcore" group can be decimated by that perception. It's not just a question of adding, it is a question of not being subtracted from. That is what Roco in particular needs to stem: the perception he can't win, better that his followers give their votes to either GMA or FPJ depending on who they think is the lesser evil.

My second caveat is that the huge number of undecided in all three surveys doesn't mean a great many Filipinos do not yet know whom to vote for, it means a great many Filipinos do not yet know whether they want to vote or not. You ask a sample which brand of soap they prefer, the undecided are just trying to make up their minds which one they want. The premise is that everyone needs soap, everyone uses soap. That same premise isn't there in elections. Not everyone needs elections, not everyone wants elections.

So far the lay of the land from where I stand is that people want change, which means that they want GMA out. But they are scared of making a change for the worse—FPJ and Lacson—or for the unknown, who is Roco. I would have thought the widespread sentiment of people wanting change and fearing a worse one would benefit Roco, but it doesn't. Or it hasn't yet. He remains an amorphous figure rather than a definite alternative. There is a palpable undercurrent of cynicism about the elections. It's not just that many Filipinos do not yet know whom to vote for, it's that they do not yet know whether they will vote or not. No, more than that, whether they will stay put in this country or not.

That is the most important finding of the surveys.

Delay will hurt FPJ campaign

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS I was writing this column, the nation awaited the decision of the Supreme Court on Fernando Poe Jr.'s disqualification case with bated breath. Few, however, wished to claim they could read the tea leaves or the crystal ball. A lawyer opines that FPJ would be disqualified, basing his sensing on the seeming difficulty with which the high magistrates were coming to a decision. There was speculation in some quarters that perhaps the SC might just remand the case to a lower court out to determine the facts of the case. But some lawyers expressed doubt that remanding the case would produce more facts, since the documents span three generations and so their authenticity is very difficult to establish. This was shown by the fact that Estelito Mendoza himself refused to swear to the records he submitted to the SC.

* * *

The only thing sure is that any delay caused by remanding the case to a lower court would inevitably slow down the flow of campaign funds for FPJ. The investors, who are a bunch of *seguristas*, would remain fearful that their money would be wasted in case he is disqualified. But there are those who opine that whatever happens in the SC, FPJ seems to be in a self-destruct mode any way. For instance, they note that the ANC interview of FPJ by Max Soliven proved quite disastrous to him as some of his answers didn't make sense. Moreover, reports from the campaign trail show that FPJ hardly speaks or merely recites lines from his movies. In fact, the one who's pulling the crowds at rallies is comedian Dolphy, FPJ's front act. Maybe President Macapagal-Arroyo would be in trouble if Dolphy were her rival.

* * *

Presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson claims he can prove that GMA has bribed local government officials to support her candidacy. But Interior Secretary Joey Lina pooh-poohed the allegation by saying that the LGUs are fully behind GMA because hers is the "most LGU-friendly administration in our history." He pointed out that GMA removed all EOs that are anti-local autonomy. In fact, she paid some P34 billion in backlogs of internal revenue allotments (IRA) to LGUs by past administrations. Moreover, said Lina, GMA gave up the local government service equalization fund, equivalent to P5 billion, that used to be collected from a fraction of the IRA and whose disbursement was at the discretion to the Office of the President. He said GMA scrapped it pending determination of more objective guidelines for its disposition.

* * *

Earlier I wrote that the struggle of Filipino conjoined twins Clarence and Carl Aguirre of Silay City to become physically separated through four delicate surgeries (one more to go this May) is being closely followed around the world with prayers. This is because the odds of success in such cases are extremely small. Menchu Sarmiento, executive director of the Philippine Airlines Foundation, which flew the twins to the United States in cooperation with American Airlines, related in the radio program I co-host with Cecile Alvarez how so many generous people here and abroad helped make the twins' case a success so far. The donors are numerous, and in many cases their lives and careers were as intertwined as the twins' heads.

The Aguirre case was brought to the attention of Dr. James Goodrich, head of pediatric neuro-surgery at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City, by Dorita Holland Urrata, an elderly American who runs Children's Chance Connecticut, an NGO that helps indigent Filipino children with extraordinary medical needs. Goodrich first wanted to have their case evaluated by Filipino neuro-surgeon Willy G. Lopez, who was his fellow resident at Columbia University in New York and who later helped. do some delicate surgeries on the twins. At the outset, Lopez requested for costly imaging tests (MRIs and CT scans with 3-D reconstruction) and these were donated by Makati Medical Center's chief, Dr. Raul Fores, and Cardinal Santos Hospital's Dr. Kenneth Tan. In Manila the twins and their mom Arlene got a free stay at the Religious of the Good Shepherd and a free work-up at the Fe del Mundo Medical Center.

Sarmiento said the 92-year-old Dr. Del Mundo was the first Filipino pediatrician Urrata had asked to be contacted about the twins. It turns out that when Urrata was a child in the UST POW camp during World War II, Del Mundo had just returned from Harvard Medical School and had saved hundreds of foreign children interned there. When Urrata's father, Albert Holland, became president of Hobart College in New York, he had the Elizabeth Blackwell Award, named after the first American woman doctor, conferred on Del Mundo.

* * *

With the Supreme Court hogging headlines, a most significant event for both the public, the Court and the media covering it will be the first ever roundtable discussion on the "Media and the Judiciary: Toward Better Understanding and Meaningful Collaboration," to be held tomorrow at the Pan Pacific Hotel from 12 to 3 p.m. Part of the project billed as "Strengthening Judiciary-Media Relations," which the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communications, under its president Dr. Florangel Rosario-Braid, is implementing for the SC, tomorrow's forum brings together some justices from the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and the Sandiganbayan as well as judges and senior media personnel to dialogue on issues and concerns in covering the judiciary. It expects to generate suggestions on how to address those issues for the mutual benefit of the court and the journalists. Among the discussants will be Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr., Assistant Court Administrator Ismael Khan Jr. and INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot.

Passenger 51

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I SHUDDER as I imagine Passenger 51 moments before the ill-fated SuperFerry 14 caught fire last week, off the coast of Cavite. Did he or didn't he?

With unconcealed delight, Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani announced a few days ago that his terror group, with the special participation of Passenger 51, had caused the tragedy that killed and injured more than 100 people and left countless traumatized and bereaved. The ship, carrying 879 passengers and crew, had just left Manila on the night of Feb. 26 and was cruising Manila Bay when tragedy struck. Among the 134 still mysteriously missing are scores of high school students who had just attended a national conference in Laguna and were returning to Mindanao. The ship, though keeled to the side, did not go down. Yet only one dead body has so far been found.

Passenger 51 was to be credited for this latest sea mishap, Janjalani crowed, and he could prove it. Passenger 51 was their own, and he had fulfilled his duty.

Government investigators were quick to pooh-pooh this owning up, insisting that there was no proof of an explosion. The disaster was an accident or it could have been human error that brought that about. Any prankster could claim authorship and ride on the tragedy as a ticket to infamy.

But Janjalani waved the smoking gun. Passenger 51, the suicide bomber, Janjalani said, was Arnulfo Alvarado whose real name was Abu Muadz, a native of Pata Island in Sulu. The Abu Sayyaf chief continued to give details of those moments before Passenger 51 sealed the fate of scores of innocents, including his own. Oh, but might he still be alive?

At first only Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abu Soliman made the announcement. "We did it!" the INQUIRER quoted him as saying.

Sure, the claim could have come from the terrorists, President Macapagal-Arroyo said, but only as an afterthought.

Then Janjalani emerged to bolster the claim by confirming the participation of Passenger 51 himself. Yes, he said, they plotted it, knew the details of it. And now they are reveling in it even as hundreds of families weep for the missing and the dead.

The ship owners have confirmed last year that they had received threats from the Abu Sayyaf. Janjalani said their warning letters had something to do with "the use of our seas, taxes."

And so it was that Passenger 51 had to take on the task of making the threat good, for whatever purpose it may serve now. Janjalani even described the physical setup inside SuperFerry 14—from the escalator, to the deck, to the Blue Room where Passenger 51 was supposed to have placed the explosive. The two spoke to each other by cell phone. "I'm embracing it," Passenger 51 said to him, probably referring to the bomb. He was ready to go, he added. To go to heaven as a martyr.

Passenger 51, Janjalani boasted, had gone through a rigorous "spiritual course" called the Amaliya Istishhadiya and meant for a few volunteers seeking martyrdom.

The Abu Sayyaf claim about Passenger 51 may be true or it may all be a boast. But claiming something that has brought anguish and trauma to hundreds of innocent individuals and families, even if it was not actually the claimants' handiwork, is almost tantamount to having done it themselves. The gleeful admission, the triumphant announcement are blood-curdling. How can one punish the innocent and claim reward in heaven?

I wish self-respecting Muslims would raise their voices to denounce the use of Islamic jargon in the terrorists' justification of this latest attack on human beings. Do they also believe that this kind of "martyrdom" is a sure way to heaven? No, I don't think so.

The Feb. 23 issue of Newsweek carries Joanna Chen's interview with Thauria Hamur, a 26-year-old Palestinian woman who was supposed to carry out a suicide bombing mission in Jerusalem in May 2002. Hamur was captured by Israeli forces shortly before she was going to set off the explosion. She is now serving a six-year sentence.

When asked to pinpoint the moment she decided to volunteer for the mission, Hamur said she could give many examples of the killing of Palestinian children. Her own cousin, she said, was killed by Israeli soldiers.

Men are promised they'll become martyrs in paradise, so what was Hamur promised? Chen asked. Hamur answered: "According to the Qur'an, God promised the martyrs a reward of 70 virgins, and those who die a martyr's death will be kept alive and sustained by God. Women martyrs are promised they will become the purest and most beautiful form of angel at the highest level possible in heaven."

The training to explode the backpack took only half an hour, Hamur disclosed. There was a button she was supposed to push when she got into a crowded place. "It was a pizza restaurant… I decided to go and blow myself up in the evening hours, when people were going back home from work and there would be a big crowd of people around the target area."

Hamur was captured, but she wasn't sorry. She would do it again, if she could. "I don't have anything against Israeli children, but I know that there is a possibility that this Israeli child will grow up and come to kill my son or my neighbor's son. Therefore, I think he should be dead now."

The vicious cycle of hate, revenge and violence continues.

* * *

Bantayog ng mga Bayani, QC. Every last Saturday of the month, in the afternoon, families and friends of martyrs and heroes listed on the Wall of Remembrance whose death and birth anniversaries fall in the current month are invited to gather, light candles, offer flowers and exchange memories in an atmosphere of peace and joy. Call 4361769 for details.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

The Filipino Volk

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

AS of this writing, I don't know how the Supreme Court will rule on the question of Fernando Poe Jr. being a natural-born Filipino or not. A law student I talked to said his classmates are of the opinion the Supreme Court has no choice but to remand the case to a lower court, since former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza refused to stipulate the veracity of the information contained in the documents he himself submitted for his client. Certainly having a lower court look into the facts seems a safer option politically and legally.

But the whole Poe case has me wondering about the way we define citizenship as something that can be, and is, inherited by blood and not by virtue of where you were born. It says something about how we define being Filipino. I am reminded of a very illuminating conversation I had some months back with a French scholar and historian, who has been doing research on Philippine political history for some time now (he is due to publish a book on Manuel L. Quezon in France in May). He dropped the remark that Filipinos were like the Germans.

I was taken aback by what he said. Why on earth are we like the Germans? I asked him. I have heard Italians tell me that they find Filipinos and the Philippines strangely familiar because we remind them of their country and politics, but I have never heard anyone compare Filipinos to the Germans.

The Frenchman laughed and suggested I refresh my memory about the Malolos Constitution. It is his view that the Malolos Constitution is of great importance because it contains a closer approximation of Filipino political and legal thought than our subsequent constitutions which are heavily influenced by American, and thus, Anglo-Saxon concepts of nationhood, the state, and the government.

Title I, Article I of the Malolos Constitution states: "The political association of all the Filipinos constitutes a NATION, whose state shall be known as the Philippine Republic." In contrast, the 1935 Constitution adopted a definition of nationhood defined by territory. Its Article I, Section 1 states, "The Philippines comprises all the territory ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Paris concluded between the United States and Spain on the tenth day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, the limits which are set forth in Article III of said treaty, together with all the islands embraced in the treaty concluded at Washington between the United States and Spain on the seventh day of November, nineteen hundred, and the treaty concluded between the United States and Great Britain on the second day of January, nineteen hundred and thirty, and all territory over which the present Government of the Philippine Islands exercises jurisdiction."

The Frenchman then explained that the 1935, 1973 and 1987 Constitutions defined the Philippines as a particular territory that made up a nation. On the other hand, the Malolos Constitution defined the Philippines in terms of the people who happen to live in a particular area; it is the people, and their decision to organize themselves and be associated with a common government, that make up the Philippines and are Filipinos. The view that a nation is defined by its territory, that it is the land that defines a people and a nation, he said, is very French and also very Anglo-Saxon. The view, on the other hand, that a nation is composed of a people, of individuals who are a people because of their relationship to each other is German. It is blood, not land, that historically distinguished a German, say, from a Frenchman or a Briton, both of whom define their nationhood in terms of the earth, of land.

His view is that the definition of Filipino nationhood in the Malolos Constitution hits closer to home than the definition of the Philippines in subsequent charters. Like the Germans before their unification in a single country in 1871, Filipinos, to his mind, are fiercely loyal to their ethnic groups but recognize a kind of commonality that transcends regional differences on a limited level. In other words while we may continue to think of ourselves as Ilocanos, Tagalogs, Cebuanos, first, we also think of ourselves as Filipinos next, and we think of our national identity not in terms of an abstract political entity defined by borders, but in terms of how we happen to be more closely related to our fellow Filipinos than to other ethnic or national groups.

We then discussed the Germans at some length, in particular their former reputation, held for centuries, for being a hopelessly divided mess of warring tribes, and the ramshackle or simply nonexistent political organizations that existed on German territory for centuries (the Holy Roman Empire; the Hanseatic League; aborted attempts at confederations). Otto von Bismarck hammered out the short-lived Second Reich after the Franco-Prussian War, but it was destroyed in World War I, which then gave birth to the grisly Third Reich after a chaotic attempt at liberal democracy under the ill-fated Weimar Republic. A united Germany, like a united Italy, seemed for centuries a pipe dream, and a modern unified nation in both places is really a rather recent development, one antedating our own attempts at nationhood by mere decades, though we have only really embarked on nation-building since 1935. The Frenchman seemed to imply that we shouldn't be too worried because the Germans and the Italians have had two generations' head start on us. We can catch up.

The whole discussion was fascinating. It explains why our law is so fixated on citizenship by blood. It also points to why, ahead of other nations, ours is becoming a global nation, a virtual nation.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Life's gifts

YOUNG BLOOD

Angie Resurreccion

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAVE every reason to curse my second year as a Jesuit volunteer. When I was teaching English in a high school in Pangantucan, Bukidnon, that was the year when:

- I got chicken pox from this kid hanging around the bus terminal (why didn't she stay home?).
- Three students from my advisory class dropped out to get married (before me!).
- I lost a tooth (after several dental appointments to keep it in my mouth).
- My father was diagnosed with cancer (an unwanted Christmas gift).
- My savings of P3,000 (that's big time for a volunteer) got stolen.

Every day was a bad hair day (I looked like a 12-year-old boy).

From the ridiculous to the serious, there was every reason for me to complain. But the truth is I remember that year with much fondness. Though a lot of things happened to make me feel sour about my whole second-year experience in the Jesuit Volunteer Program, many "little joys" and "little blessings" came my way which far outweighed the painful ones.

Of course, my father's cancer was something I had to struggle with during my last three months as a volunteer. I was on the verge of quitting as I confronted the thought of losing him without having spent enough time with him. But Dad was noble. He was the one who pushed me to continue with my volunteer year, assuring me my service could give him a longer lease on life. And God was good: He allowed me to spend a few more months with my Dad before easing his suffering.

Back to Pangantucan.

It wasn't exactly a walk in the clouds to teach high school students and deal with their raging hormones. There were days when I suspected that all the students I was teaching were conspiring to make my day miserable. They hardly listened to the discussion. The girls read romance novels hidden inside their notebooks. The boys threw spitballs at each other when I was not looking. Some had their Physics book on their desks instead of their English books. Add to that the fact that I had to teach Odysseus and Shakespeare in Tagalog because they hardly understood English. Nope, it was not a walk in the clouds. More like trudging up a path littered with cow dung every few feet.

Then there were days when all the students seemed to have had a good night's sleep and made sure their teacher's day passed perfectly.

Like the Friday before my birthday. Two of the classes I handled barred me from giving a lesson and instead held a program for me. Most of them prepared song numbers, with April Boy Regino, Renz Verano and Aegis in their repertoire. One of the kids even danced ballet! Much to the delight of his classmates (yes, he was a he though maybe he's not).

Come my birthday that Sunday, some of the boys came over to our boarding house bearing a bouquet of red roses and two bond paper-sized artworks. All over the artworks were short messages from their classmates. The messages were quite touching especially since many wrote that they enjoyed my classes. I almost cried when I read them.

Sometimes a day would start out just like any other day and then unfold into something unexpected and memorable. Once I had my class do a report on Odysseus. While one group was reporting, I was listening at the back of the room. Close to where I was standing sat one of the rowdiest boys among all the seniors. He was just a year younger than I was and very much taller. Most of the time he disrupted the class with his (not so) smart-alecky remarks about our lessons. Though he was a bit of a nuisance, I never really disliked him. For me, he was just frisky and wanted to call attention to himself (KSP).

While I was listening to the report, he called out to me, "Ma'am!"

"What is it?" I answered in Bisaya.

"*Salamat kaayo, ha. Karon lang ko nakasabot sa* English *bisan* Tagalog *pa ang imong pagtudlo* (Thank your very much. It's only now that I can understand English even if you are teaching us in Tagalog)."

I smiled and tried to look unaffected. But in truth, my heart swelled up. The boy had just given me the best compliment I had ever received. For a teacher, that was wonderful to hear indeed. But hearing that from a young man who I had always thought never took my class or me seriously, it was a taste of heaven.

Many other similar episodes happened to me. Just when I would start thinking that I was a failure as a teacher, I would receive a letter from my students thanking me for being a cool teacher or a trusty confidante. Sometimes, they would visit the house bringing *marang* or cornick as a gift. Others would go so far as to say I had made a difference in their lives with the stories I taught in class.

Writing it all down now makes my heart beat faster. Thinking of all my students makes me fall in love with them all over.

Could you actually curse a year when your heart has been broken only to be whole again—with a much bigger capacity to love?

You cannot. You can just lean back, remember, laugh and rediscover life's gifts all over again.

Angie Resurreccion, 25, is a program officer at the Assisi Development Foundation. She was a Jesuit volunteer in Bukidnon.

THEY SAID

Against change

"I don't like to change the government again."

—Filipina overseas worker Estrella Sagadraca on rooting for President Macapagal-Arroyo

Sour grapes

"He just couldn't get a show-biz personality to root for him."

—Deposed President Joseph Estrada's reaction to presidential aspirant Panfilo Lacson's criticism that show-biz people were making a circus out of the campaign

Confusing counts

"Supposing their (Commission on Elections) quick count and their official count differ? Who are we going to believe, Comelec or Comelec?"

—UP Prof. Solita Monsod, asking the poll body not to conduct a quick count

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PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

ELECTION 2004

GMA: RP needs an experienced president

THE COMMISSION on Elections is hoping that the six presidential candidates will take part in the two debates it has authorized, despite statements from the camp of actor Fernando Poe Jr. that he is not inclined to join a debate.

At two consecutive meetings with representatives of the presidential candidates and organizers of the debates, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said yesterday that he wanted all the presidential aspirants to take part so they could present their platform of government and help voters make an informed choice.

The debate sponsored by GMA 7 and the INQUIRER, to be aired on April 4 and on April 11, will focus on *kahirapan* (poverty) and *katiwalian* (corruption) and how the presidential candidates will address them.

The debate sponsored by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and the Comelec, to be aired on April 13 on another channel, will deal with economic, political and social concerns and how the candidates will respond to them.

Former Press Secretary Rod Reyes, Poe's representative to the meetings, could not say whether Poe would change his mind. Neither presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye could say that President Macapagal-Arroyo would attend the debates. But the representatives of Raul Roco, Panfilo Lacson, Bro. Eddie Villanueva and Eddie Gil said their principals would join the GMA 7 and INQUIRER-sponsored debate.

While the presidential candidates have yet to present their programs during a televised debate, Talk of the Town is running the stand of the candidates on issues to help voters choose their candidates. Ms Macapagal is the fifth presidential candidate we featured in this section.

I have already made a down payment

By Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Presidential candidate
K-4 Coalition

I need a mandate of my own from the electorate. With this mandate, I shall step up the fight for change in our economy and our political system. I need a mandate of my own to change the culture of corruption, stop the scourge of drugs and wipe out terrorism, to create more jobs and remove poverty from our people.

I am asking the people for this mandate because our country needs effective leadership. I have made a strong start over these last three years and I believe the nation can no longer afford another learning curve for an inexperienced president.

I have already made a down payment and I am ready to pay the full installments for change.

ECONOMIC CONCERNS

Unemployment

Brain drain comes with the globalization of our labor force. But it is not necessarily bad because remittances educate the children of overseas Filipino workers and build brains. Moreover, OFWs are considered major investors because their remittances that could amount to $8 billion annually are continuously injected into our economy. They also bring prestige to our country, which drives confidence and investment and creates more jobs.

Poverty

We have anchored our anti-poverty campaign on: the economic philosophy of free enterprise; a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity; a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance economic development; and good governance.

To attract investors, the source of job-creating capital, we continue to unleash the full force of the law against lawless elements to keep their confidence. We reduced the cost of doing business by addressing corruption and streamlining procedures.

We shall continue to implement the flagship poverty reduction program called Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan. The program addresses the most urgent as well as the long-term needs of the poorest barangays in the country.

Foreign debt, budget deficit

I am for effective debt management through genuine fiscal reforms and debt restructuring. We need to spread the maturities of our external debt to longer periods.

To address not only our debt problem but also our burgeoning deficit, we have to maintain prudent government spending and effective revenue generation. We have already tightened our expenditures by focusing only on essential items that impact on the delivery of basic social services. We have implemented revenue reform measures, which resulted in the surpassing of our revenue targets last year.

But apart from these, we need to stand on a stable political base. That is why we need to shake off the syndrome of perennial political instability and perceptions of lawlessness and corruption. We must unite for our national goals, have a strong democracy, and hold clean elections.

Globalization

Globalization is inevitable and I support liberalized and fair free trade. But this commitment should be achieved in a manner consistent with our country's own development priorities.

Our position in Cancun is clear and unequivocal. We are for downgrading subsidies by foreign governments to their own farmers and breaking down and dissolving barriers to products of the developing countries—quotas, health and sanitary regulations, technical obstacles, and other clever tricks. These policies, which are used by rich countries, result in unfair competition to products coming from developing economies. We aim to fight for our farmers and fisherfolk to the best we can, working in concert with the rest of the developing world.

Corruption

We must end graft and corruption with a mighty hand of political will and a change of values among our citizenry. I am for establishing clear reforms for transparency, responsibility and accountability that will lead to political and social stability and sustained economic development.

Pork barrel

The "pork barrel," which is entered as the Priority Development Assistance Fund, in the national budget, is an important instrument for pushing reforms, equalizing economic opportunities and changing the social landscape to favor the poor. Most lawmakers use it well.

Power rates

My administration inherited the power purchase adjustment (PPA) problem and its attendant issues, and barely half a year in the Presidency, as early as July 2001, I ordered Napocor to reduce PPA charges. I also strongly advocated the pursuit of measures aimed at providing the public with fair energy pricing. Among these measures is the review of and negotiations on some 35 IPP contracts. The resolution of issues on 20 IPP contracts resulted in savings for government of $1.036 billion.

Food security, land reform

Our target is 100-percent rice self-sufficiency. To achieve this, we have given full support to agriculture modernization, resulting in all time highs in *palay* production in the last two years, at 13.2 million metric tons in 2002 and 13.3 million metric tons in 2003.

Since the start of my administration, we targeted and delivered every year the distribution of at least 200,000 hectares of private and public lands for agrarian reform, including ancestral domain titles for indigenous peoples.

To date, in a span of just over two and a half years, we have distributed 1.18 million hectares, which include some 570,000 hectares of ancestral lands, titles to which have been issued to about 80,000 indigenous peoples.

Sustainable development

We have accelerated implementation of our existing programs and new laws, among others, the Philippine Clean Air Act, National Integrated Protected Areas System, Integrated Water Resources Management, Community-Based Forest Management and Management of Coastal Areas.

POLITICAL CONCERNS

Charter change

I favor Charter change, which will incorporate a shift from the presidential to parliamentary and federal form of government because the country's problems stem from our economic and political systems. The shift will pave the way for greater economic prosperity and genuine political agenda. This should be subject to in-depth and extensive discussions. This is part of the fight for change for the average Filipino.

Our highly centralized, inefficient and ineffective unitary form of government should be replaced by a federal system. If elected to a full six-year term, I would initiate Charter change by urging Congress to call a constitutional convention whose delegates may be elected at the same time as the barangay election in 2005, in order to save funds.

My reasons for giving more power, authority, and resources to regional governments are based on the following objectives: to bring governance and public service closer to the people; to speed up development in all regions; to empower the people by improving their lives and their access to decision-makers; to reduce corruption; and, to make government more responsive and accountable to the citizens.

Death penalty

Much as I am averse to the taking of human lives by the State, kidnapping for ransom and illegal drug manufacture and trafficking have reached a point where they have become daily, life-threatening scourges. That is why I decided to lift the moratorium on the death penalty and implement the decisions of the Supreme Court on cases pertaining to illegal drugs and kidnapping.

Erap pardon

That remains speculative at this point. Let us not preempt the decision of the courts.

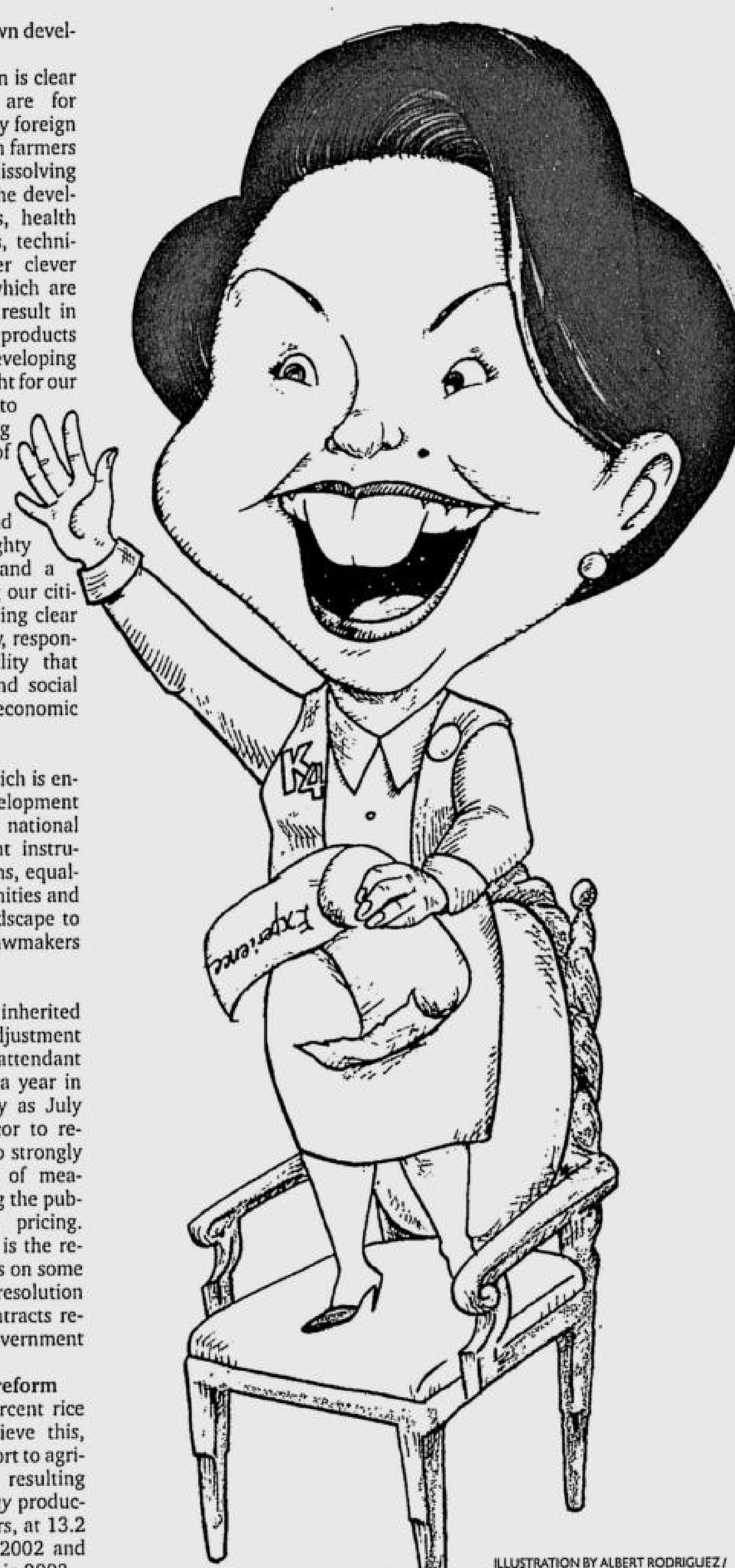

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ / PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

People power

People power must be harnessed in the fight for change. I shall pursue the institutionalization of people power into a mainstream force for sustaining our efforts for meaningful social reform and nation-building; to be the nemesis of corruption and inaction in the government.

Marcos ill-gotten wealth

We are continuously working with Congress to ensure that human rights victims during the martial law regime and agrarian reform communities will be the primary beneficiaries of the recovered ill-gotten wealth.

Insurgency

I am committed to the pursuit of the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the National Democratic Front because it is morally right and is required by our national interest.

The government peace panel upon my direction is currently exerting efforts to come up with a final peace agreement with the MILF. The Malaysian government's recent statements urging the MILF to abandon its secessionist goals and to work within the bounds of the Philippine Constitution bodes well for the peace process.

On the other hand, the recent developments in the peace talks with the NDF in Oslo, Norway are a testimony of my commitment to genuine national unity and reconciliation. With the presence and active participation of the Royal Norwegian government, I am hopeful that we will be able to speed up the peace process. The confidence-building measures approved by both sides should keep the momentum going.

Rest assured, however, that any terrorist acts will be dealt with under a policy of counterforce.

Terrorism

The Philippines has waged an all out war against terrorism. The Abu Sayyaf is a spent force. Jemaah Islamiyah leaders have been neutralized and the rest are being hunted down.

Crime

I have taken a direct hand in the intensified campaign against criminality and lawlessness, particularly in the anti-illegal drugs and anti-kidnapping campaigns. Major accomplishments in these campaigns are as follows:

Neutralization of the nine top leaders of kidnap-for-ransom groups in the new order of battle. This is over and above the initial 15 KFR groups neutralized in 2002.

Launched an all out war on illegal drugs, which yielded impressive results. In 2003 alone, government arrested more than 33,000 people involved in illegal drugs; neutralized 10 international and 269 local drug syndicates; cleared 51 percent or 3,800 out of 7,405 drug-affected barangays; dismantled 21 shabu laboratories and warehouses, including the largest shabu laboratory in Antipolo City, which yielded P2.2-billion worth of illegal drugs; and seized P13.6-billion worth of illegal drugs and essential chemicals.

Foreign policy

Our foreign policy is guided by our development and national security goals. Based on these goals, we shape our foreign policy according to eight realities of the regional and international environment. These are:

The influence of China, Japan and the United States in the security and economic evolution of East Asia; the growing context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in global affairs.

The role of the international Islamic community; the looming importance of inter-regional organizations.

The protection of the environment, natural resources and maritime territory; the drive for foreign markets and foreign investments in which Europe is also a major source along with the US, Japan, China and Asean.

The importance of international tourism; and, the crucial role of overseas Filipinos in the socioeconomic stability.

The Philippines and the United States are enjoying a vigorous and quality partnership based on shared values, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

We shall continue to honor our One-China policy.

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court decisions only show that the government is firm in its commitment to good governance and good business practices in the country. The rulings boost the institutional credibility of the government and reassure our investors that we uphold the rule of law and the public's interest in our country.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Jueteng

The government shall relentlessly pursue efforts to fight any illegal numbers game, which has been a source of corruption. I have instructed the formulation of a comprehensive program designed to stamp out illegal gambling and provide alternative sources of income for poor people who depend on *jueteng* who have been displaced by the campaign.

Population

I stand for respect for life, responsible parenthood, informed choice and birth spacing using modern natural family planning methods.

Divorce

I am not for divorce. The family is the central unit of society. It is the basic source of national bond and fraternity. It is a basic autonomous social institution recognized by the Constitution.

Abortion

I am against abortion. One of the principles of my population policy is respect for life or absolute rejection of abortion.

Housing

My administration continues to ensure that land is available for housing; that a sustainable, widely accessible and affordable housing finance system is created; and that the local governments and the private sector (i.e., business, civil society and peoples' organizations) are involved in addressing housing and urban development and housing market problems.

These measures have resulted in the increase in the number of informal settler families who benefited from the disposition of government lands for socialized housing, compared with the previous administration. We were also able to lower interest rates for socialized housing loans to its lowest ever at six percent.

Education

We have a massive tuition support loan program for college juniors and seniors who need that last installment to finish college.

We shall continue to implement the revised Basic Education Curriculum to enhance competencies in English, Math, and Science and to prepare students for gainful employment in the knowledge economy.

Access to quality education shall be enhanced for the poor in far-flung barangays and conflict areas by mainstreaming the distance learning program and building more classrooms.

The use of competency-based grading system shall be promoted as a fundamental and strategic reform to enable schools to concentrate on areas where students need more help so that they can be assisted more effectively.

The government shall also pursue the High School Bridge Program to remedy the deficiencies revealed by diagnostic tests to prepare students for secondary education.

Prostitution

Our practice and our foundation as a people are enshrined in our faith and provided for in the Constitution. We regard the family as the basic unit of society, and prostitution contravenes this principle.

Gay rights

The government promotes and protects gay rights as human rights. The Constitution provides that "the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights" (Article II, Sec. 11).

Similarly, we abide by the provisions of the Constitution for Congress to give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good.

Malnutrition

In line with our priority to provide food on every table, we have allocated a total of P96.55 billion to modernize agriculture and strictly monitor the prices of basic food commodities.

We shall continue to address micro-nutrient malnutrition through food fortification in collaboration with all stakeholders namely, the government, food industry, NGOs, donor agencies, academe, laboratories and fortificant suppliers.

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Lawmaker slightly wounded in ambush

OCCIDENTAL Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato was slightly injured in an ambush in Barangay Alakaak, Sta. Cruz town at about 1:30 p.m. yesterday, police said.

Sato's bodyguard, however, was reported in critical condition. Also with Sato's group was board member Randy Ignacio who was also wounded.

Sato's secretary Letlet Collamar, who was in the provincial hospital where Sato was first taken for treatment, politely declined to provide details about the ambush.

"I'm still in shock. My head is still in pain," she told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

She said she was with Sato when they were ambushed by still unidentified suspects.

Collamar said she could not provide updates about Sato's condition. She said, "she's (Sato) still inside the examination room, but she is safe with no gunshot wound."

According to PO3 Alejo Pascua of the Mamburao municipal police office, Sato was riding in a Ford-150 pickup and had another pickup as backup vehicle when ambushed.

The people who were with Sato during the ambush could not recall how many gunshots they heard.

Gov. Jose Villarosa has denied involvement in the ambush, saying he was in Abra de Ilog town the whole morning and attended three separate occasions.

Villarosa expressed concern over the attack. He said, "*Ako tiyak ang pagbibintangan. Mabuti naman kung ganoon na walang nangyari sa kanya* (For sure, I will be the one who will be blamed. It's good that nothing happened to her.)"

According to Villarosa, the initial report that reached him pointed to the New People's Army as the most likely suspect. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Another leukemia death blamed on toxic wastes in ex-US bases

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A five-year-old boy on Tuesday died of leukemia, adding to the list of 19 children who succumbed to the same illness associated with exposure to toxic wastes in and around two former American bases in Central Luzon.

The boy, Eric Salas of the Madapdap resettlement in Mabalacat, Pampanga, died at 1 a.m., according to the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup (PTFBC).

Norma Nicdao, PTFBC health worker, said Salas' battle with acute *lymphoblastic* leukemia began in July when he had high fever and was unable to stand. It was the same ailment that killed child "toxic warrior" Crizel Jane Valencia, 6, in 2000.

Salas died as American and Filipino soldiers held war games under the large-scale exercise Balikatan-04 in at least five areas in Luzon, including the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and the Subic Naval Base in Zambales.

Salas' parents, Eduardo and Sonia, used to live in Barangay San Joaquin, just outside Clark's perimeter gate. The couple evacuated to the Clark Air Base Command (Cabcom) after Mt. Pinatubo's eruption and lahar flows ravaged the northern part of Mabalacat.

The defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission closed Cabcom in 2000 after the Department of Health confirmed the presence of heavy metals in the area's drinking water and vegetables planted at the command center.

"These facts are being accounted for as the probable source of exposure by the parents that was passed on to the child," the PTFBC said in a statement here.

Salas was the fifth child in the family. His parents could not afford the treatment because they earn only P100 daily from selling charcoal.

The task force said the two sessions of chemotherapy for Salas came from contributions raised by the Alliance for Bases Cleanup through the concert of tenor Ramon Acoymo and a donation from the television program Magandang Gabi, Bayan.

Two more leukemia-stricken children, Jaster Bernal and Jason Alcantara, are in the care of the task force.

The task force said it has monitored at least 13 leukemia cases in Clark and six in Subic.

The PTFBC has been urging the Philippine government to collect compensation from the US government for the cleanup of the areas which American forces used for decades as military bases.

But the appeal has fallen on deaf ears as government officials continue to ignore it. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

MOTHER'S TOUCH
VAL HANDUMON/PDI PHOTO
President Macapagal-Arroyo chances upon a woman breastfeeding her baby during a sortie in Ozamiz City where she shook hands, walked the streets and wooed voters to make her their choice this coming May 10 elections.

Trader draws life term for drug dealing

BAGUIO CITY—A businessman from Bulacan, whom 10 members of the Western Police District had tried to "rescue" from arresting Baguio police officers in 2002, was sentenced on Wednesday to life imprisonment for possessing 196.3 grams of shabu.

The defunct Police Narcotics Command of the Baguio police arrested Marcelo de Juaiting on June 29, 2002, along with two supposed accomplices, in a buy-bust operation.

De Juaiting's co-accused, Poncelito Cruz and Rafael Lumba, were acquitted.

The operation made the headlines when the arresting officers accused several WPD policemen of a failed attempt to buy off De Juaiting's freedom.

But Judge Antonio Reyes of the regional trial court here ruled that the police failed to establish that the suspects had attempted to sell the contraband and acquitted them.

Reyes said De Juaiting, however, could not deny evidence that he had been transporting about 450 grams of shabu, earning him a life term imprisonment.

Police said the balance of 250.4 grams of shabu was used in the buy-bust deal.

The court decision affirmed that De Juaiting had asked Cruz, of San Rafael, Bulacan, to accompany him to a drug transaction that was supposed to occur in Baguio on June 29, 2002.

The third accused, Lumba, was implicated when De Juaiting went to his house here.

Reyes said the suspects' movements were monitored by a surveillance team from the police's narcotics command.

He said the team arrested De Juaiting several blocks from Lumba's house and used the suspect to lure Lumba to a transaction area where he was also arrested.

But Reyes said inconsistent testimony from the arresting policemen convinced him that the buy-bust operation never took place and was simply "made up, became pre-textual and was merely injected into the just-concluded operations."

The policemen, Reyes said, feared that stopping De Juaiting's vehicle on June 29 without a warrant might be illegal. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NDF owns up killing of 3 traffic cops in Butuan

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The National Democratic Front (NDF) in Mindanao confirmed that its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), was behind the killing of three traffic police officers in Butuan City on Monday.

Jorge Madlos, NDF Mindanao spokesperson, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that the NPA in Agusan del Norte carried out the executions in Purok 2, Barangay Taligaman, Butuan City around 2:30 p.m.

Madlos said the police officers committed crimes against the people.

"Complaints against them have reached us and they have been found guilty of the crimes," Madlos said.

Madlos did not say what the officers did.

A civilian was also wounded in the attack at a mobile checkpoint in Barangay Taligaman, which was set up by the policemen.

Identified

Supt. James Libres, regional director of the Traffic Management Group in Caraga, identified the slain policemen as SPO4 Jose Aquino, PO3 Franco Cantero and PO1 Pol Paler.

The wounded civilian was Ernesto Alvarez, who was driving for the policemen.

Libres said the traffic policemen set up a mobile checkpoint around 10:30 p.m. after an alarm on a stolen vehicle.

A few minutes after setting up the checkpoint, Libres said the policemen saw a speeding Isuzu truck with at least 10 people aboard.

He said the lawmen motioned the driver to pull over, but instead of complying, the men aboard the truck drew their firearms and started firing.

Libres said the three policemen died on the spot.

"They were really caught off guard, this is a senseless killing," Libres told the INQUIRER.

As soon as the suspects withdrew, Libres said another group of suspected rebels came out of the bushes and shot the victims anew.

Libres said the rebels fled with the victims' government issued firearms—three .45 cal. pistols and a shotgun—and their personal belongings including cell phones, watches and wallets.

A witness told investigators he heard the armed men shout anti-government and NPA slogans as they withdrew. *Grace Albasin and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army repeats warning to bets on paying rebels

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Army has reiterated its warning to candidates not to pay "permits-to-campaign (PTC)" to the communist rebels or face criminal charges.

"We will charge (the candidates) with treason because paying the rebels will mean they are helping the enemies of the state," said Lt. Col. Oscar Lasangue, spokesperson of the Army's Task Force Panay. TFP is in charge of internal security operations on Panay Island.

Lasangue did not say they could determine for sure if a candidate has been paying PTC, except to say the charges will be filed against those whom they have found "solid proof" of having paid campaign fees to the rebels.

He said the Army and police are willing to provide security to candidates who will seek their assistance in campaigning in rebel-influenced areas.

Iloilo board rejects plan to build coal-fired power plant in village

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Iloilo provincial board on Tuesday rejected the proposed construction of a 100-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Banate town, Iloilo.

Voting 7-5 with one abstention, the 14-member board upheld a 20-page report of the entire board opposing the $150-million project of the Korean Electric Power Company-Philippines Corp. (Kephilco).

The decision effectively bars the project because the Korean firm needs the board's endorsement in seeking government approval in the construction of the power plant, said Iloilo Vice Gov. Roberto Armada.

The project is among the long-term measures aimed to resolve the power supply deficit of Panay Island but it was met by widespread protests over fears of pollution and environmental hazards.

The Kephilco has maintained that the plant is environmentally safe because it will use the Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFBC), a Swiss technology that minimizes waste emission.

Board members Henry Anotado, Eric Barbosa Sr., Janette Garin, Bienvenido Margarico, Romeo Palmares, Igmedio Prado Jr. and Bernardo Silla Jr. approved the report prepared by Armada as committee chair.

Those who voted against the report were board members Romulo Cabana Sr., Cecilia Capadosa, Vicente Ramirez, Jeneda Salcedo and Victorino Salcedo II, all identified with the camp of Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. Board member Angel Briones abstained.

The five said they needed additional technical data from the proponent and more time to study the issues.

But Armada, who is running for reelection against Tupas' party, said the report was based on position papers submitted by different parties, including environmental experts.

He said the board members were furnished a copy of the report 18 days before the deliberation.

The board had formed itself as a committee of the whole on Nov. 11 when Margarico delivered a privilege speech against the project after the municipal council of Banate signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Kephilco for the firm to conduct studies on the power plant.

In its report, the board said the Banate municipal government violated the Local Government Code of 1991 when it entered into the MOU without consulting the residents of Banate, a coastal town 54 km north of here.

The report said the village and youth councils of San Salvador, where the proposed 25-hectare site is located, had passed resolutions rejecting the project.

Pinay maid dies in fall in HK

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A Filipina domestic helper in Hong Kong died on Sunday, 18 days after she fell from the 10th floor of a residential building.

Gina Pastrana, 36, died of multi-organ failure at 8:45 p.m. at the Pamela Youde Nethersole Hospital, according to a report of Petrona Bergado, welfare officer at the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong.

Her body lies at the hospital's mortuary awaiting the coroner's investigation.

Pastrana is a native of Barangay Bayan in Passi City, Iloilo, 59 km northeast of here.

She reportedly fell from the window of her employer's residence on. Feb. 11. Police found her unconscious at the Tin Lok Lane in Wanchai, according to the Wanchai police report.

Police were still investigating but the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) said Pastrana behaved unusually a week before her death.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

WITH "sawali" mats enclosing the historic Perez Park in Lucena City, the stately bronze monument of former President Manuel Quezon is next in line for "destructive" renovation.

DELFIN T MALLARI JR /PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Quezon groups unite to save sunken park

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

SEVERAL groups in Quezon are assailing the provincial government for pushing through with its development of the seven-hectare sunken Perez Park and destroying one of the province's historical landmarks.

"We noticed that the initial work has altered its [the park's] original and unique sunken design. Soon, the historical landmark that has distinguished our city from all other places in the country will be obliterated," Rosario Abrenica of the Perez Park Restoration Committee and Asuncion Flores of the Quezon Historical and Cultural Society wrote to the provincial government.

For several months last year, work in the first block of the park, which has a children's playground and a man-made cave, were closed to public viewing. *Sawali* mats enclosed the area.

When the renovated block was opened to the public last December, it already had a mini-skating rink, a fish lagoon around the cave, picnic tables, a cemented open space and lighted walkways, and a corner playground.

The original sunken park is now at level with the roads around the promenade, with patches of greens and foot marks. It was no longer fenced.

"We feel that apart from the loss of a historical landmark ... we also feel that it is sheer arrogance and scornful haughtiness to put an entirely new work on past monumental handiwork so that fresh credit may be reaped for its do-over," Abrenica and Flores said in their petition letter.

Not development

During the regular session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on Feb. 23, Isabel Agnes Largosa, 75, who introduced herself as a concerned "*balikbayan*," told the board members that what the park needed was "restoration and not development."

"There is nothing to be developed there. It has been developed a long, long time ago. We have nothing but disgust for what you think is progress. It's plain destruction," she said.

Largosa said her great-granduncle was killed when dynamite was exploded during the excavation of the park. Casting aside the painful memory, she said: "I can look back when each day with friends, we could not pass by it without spending some minutes to play, sit on stone mushrooms, and drink from the stone carabao head spitting water to quench our thirst."

"My tears welled when I first saw the destruction ... this is the loneliest of all," she added.

Former Gov. Felimon Perez donated the park site way back in the early 20s.

Tony Insua, a retired banker and vice chair of the Perez Park Restoration Foundation, said the public was not consulted on the park's radical changes.

"All we knew was the holding of a design contest for the park, but after that, we were no longer aware of what was going on at the park. Had there been consultation, we could have protested earlier," said Insua, a member of Lucena City Friday Club.

The petitioners also found that the memorial attesting to the birth of the foundation was removed. Ironically, according to Insua, the action slogan adopted by the foundation was "Ibalik ang Parke sa Dati."

Source of pride

Tony Constantino, a prominent realtor, recounted that even Cristy Perez-Fajardo, a granddaughter of the late governor, had also expressed concern about the park development before she died last year.

"We, the heirs of the park donor, were not even consulted regarding the plan to alter the park's original design," Constantino quoted Fajardo, also a prominent personality in Southern Tagalog.

"She also told me that based on the original plan of the park, it should be a minimalist park with just little ornaments. And, of course, with its original sunken design," Constantino said.

The groups described Perez Park as a source of pride for the province because it was "the only sunken garden of consequence and of antique beauty in our country."

To emphasize that their protest against the ongoing park development was not politically motivated, the organizers said they had kept at bay politicians who also wanted to sign their petition.

The Lucena City Friday Club, composed of prominent retirees from the public and private sectors, is leading the campaign against the park renovation program.

Ambitious

Nearly 1,500 people have already signed the petition. "And more are more than willing to affix their signatures to the petition sheet," said Leonor Sevilla, a Catholic women's leader and columnist of the Church-based Boletin Lucenino.

Last year, Gov. Wilfrido Enverga launched the ambitious renovation project, which, he said, aimed to develop the park into a modern promenade area.

Enverga, in an INQUIRER interview last year, gave the impression that old landmarks would be retained in the new setup.

"But its being a sunken park by itself is its most important landmark," said the petitioners. "The new design is too common and very ordinary as it can easily be seen in many other places. It does not even have the merit of novelty."

Enverga brushed aside the criticisms. "That's their opinion, they are entitled to. But there are also lots of opinions, which also praise the project." As a matter of fact, he said, "busloads of excursionists have been visiting the park even at night."

Provincial board member Vicente Alcala recalled that they did not approve any funding allocation for the park project.

During Monday's regular session, the board members reported that they wrote Enverga to request the suspension of construction work at the site.

But Enverga said the project had already been approved by the provincial board, along with an implementing budget. He said he could not remember the total project cost.

Retired city engineer Mariano Reyes, who is also a member of the Lucena City Friday Club, warned of flooding in the city should the park project push through.

Reyes disclosed that the main sewerage pipes traversed right under the middle of the park. "Once the pressure of the filling materials brings its toll on the pipes below, they might collapse and cause heavy flooding in the whole city," he said.

Movement

Quezon-based businesses, civic groups, senior citizens organizations, schools, religious organizations and individuals calling themselves the Citizens for the Preservation of Perez Park have signed the petition letter.

Private vehicles of prominent people also bear banners that read "Save Perez Sunken Park."

Last week, workers started to cover with *sawali* mats the farthest block of the sunken park where the stately bronze monument of President Manuel L. Quezon and the multicolored jet fountains are found, signaling the start of renovation in the area.

Retired city prosecutor Romeo Dato, another member of the Lucena City Friday Club, filed on Feb. 25 a special civil action case against the provincial officials for the alleged destruction of the park.

But Executive Judge Rafael Lagos of the regional trial court denied the request for a temporary restraining order, saying the issue lacked urgency.

Dato explained that the denial was only the result of legal misinterpretation that could be resolved in today's hearing.

In his petition, he contended that Perez Park was no longer under the authority of the provincial government but of the city government by virtue of the latter's creation as a city on 1961.

Enverga declined to make a comment on the court suit. "I will first read the charges," he said.

Tanong ng Bayan INQ TV 10pm, M-F, ABC-5

Mga babaeng pulitiko: Mas epektibo ba?

A. ABA, OO. Marunong mag-budget, may malasakit.
B. HINDI. Pareho lang sa mga lalaking pulitiko.
C. MALALA PA. Kulang sa dunong, labis sa kurakot.
D. EWAN KO. Mahirap sabihin. Hindi pa subok.

[illegible]

'We were heroes even for a moment'

By Marlon Ramos
Tanza, Cavite

UNLIKE the previous days, fisherman Lito Pelaez remembered last Friday's strong winds off the coast of Cavite that whipped up big waves in the open sea.

Curiously, it wasn't raining, but what he saw seemed to portend the making of a tragedy, Pelaez said.

The rough waters—an unusual occurrence at the end of February, the onset of summer—had even prompted his wife to warn him against sailing off, he said.

"It looked that something bad would happen. But if I decided not to sail, we would have nothing to eat. I am also used to turbulent conditions," the 43-year-old fisherman said in Filipino. "I have befriended the sea through the years."

With 14 neighbors on board five small fishing vessels, they left their coastal village of Barangay Amaya 7 in Tanza, Cavite, for the vast fishing grounds between the province and the historic Corregidor Island in Bataan.

Fire-like beam

Hours later, Pelaez said they heard an explosion. From afar, they saw fire shooting up from a huge ship.

"I thought someone was using dynamite for fishing. But we never experienced dynamite fishing here," said Gerry Lukban, one of Pelaez's companions.

Before they could find out what the fiery shaft was all about, they heard cries of help from several people floating in the sea.

"They were crying. Some were shouting for us to help them. We couldn't understand what they were saying. So we quickly pulled them out. We immediately returned to shore and asked for help from our barangay captain," said Pelaez.

Lukban, 45, said that at first, he and his neighbors felt nervous when they saw the people wearing life vests. But their instinct to help got the better of them, he said.

For almost 30 minutes, they hauled in as many people as their motorized boat could load. They rushed back to shore at about 6 a.m. to provide the survivors food and dry clothes.

On their way back, Pelaez said, the survivors vividly recalled their ordeal. They were passengers, he was told of the SuperFerry 14, which had suddenly caught fire, and that they had jumped off the ship.

"They said they were bound for Bacolod (City) and Mindanao. Many of them were Visayan-speaking. Fortunately, I could understand Visayan because my mother was from Cebu," Lukban said.

"Some of them were even looking for their loved ones. All we did was to calm and pacify them."

First to arrive

Tanza police chief, Chief Insp. Madrideo, said that if not for the heroic deeds of Pelaez and the other fishermen, some of the rescued passengers would have died or suffered other injuries.

"There could have been more fatalities if not for the fishermen who were the first to arrive at the scene. They were the ones who reported the incident to their village chief, who then alerted us of the accident," Madrideo said.

He says Pelaez's group was able to save 33 passengers, four of them youngsters.

Madrideo revealed that one of the survivors was a 15-day-old boy who was under the care of the ship's crew during the rescue operations. The fishermen saved the baby's mother, a certain Carol Castillo, who was brought to the Navotas fish port.

Mother and child had a touching reunion at the Philippine Coast Guard station in Manila.

Police said the survivors were brought to the Divine Grace Hospital in nearby Rosario town, where personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard and ship owner, WG&A, had set up a relief station.

Cavite police director Roberto Rosales said several passengers were also rescued in Rosario town. He said fishermen and PCG personnel were able to save a total of 75 passengers who drifted toward the shore.

Rosales said the ship owner was quick to dispatch its own team to look after the survivors and bring them to a hospital in Manila.

"We are still continuing with our search-and-rescue operations. The Coast Guard officials said some survivors could have been washed away in some coastal communities of Cavite," the police official said in a telephone interview.

Pelaez said his "memorable experience" was actually not his first time to play hero to victims of sea accidents.

Even rivals

He recalled that a few years ago, a commercial fishing boat also had trouble off the shores of Cavite. He and other fishermen helped bring the crew to safe grounds, although "they were our No. 1 rivals in the fishing grounds."

But more than the reward of admiration, Pelaez, Lukban and the rest chose not to hog the limelight for what they did. That fateful Friday morning was for them a humbling experience and "made us realize that we still have something to cheer about despite our hard up lives."

Pelaez even tried to beg off from being interviewed by this writer if not for a promise that he will not be photographed.

"That incident, in a way, taught us to be thankful with what we have. I said to myself, 'We are still lucky to be alive even if we almost have nothing to eat.' God really has His way to remind you to thank Him," said the unassuming Pelaez, a father of seven.

He recalled how a rescued passenger lamented that he had just loaned P800,000 from a bank in Bacolod so he could buy a small truck that he would use to start a business.

Another narrated how she patiently saved her salary to help her ailing mother get medical treatment.

Destiny

"That's their destiny. I believe we all have ours," Pelaez said.

When asked what they would want if the government decided to reward their heroism, Lukban said: "Livelihood. I hope (President Macapagal-Arroyo) can help us put up a small business here or help us find livelihood other than trawling fish."

"Over the years, there had been a constant decline of fish catch in our area. Maybe because the sea has given us all she could. There have also been reports of overfishing by some big commercial vessels. Now we have to look for another job," he lamented.

He also had qualms about the recent decision of Ms Macapagal to start construction of a coastal road in Cavite. Some of the fishermen believe that several communities will be ultimately displaced by the project, he said.

After helping the survivors board a minibus to a hospital in Manila, Lukban remembered joking with another fisherman at the end of their "experience."

"So what now? We again have no earnings today," he said in jest.

"At least, we were heroes even for a moment," answered another.

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)

SUERTRES
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MEGALOTTO 6/45
12 13 15 20 41 43

Pipie laid to rest in Parañaque

By Margaux Ortiz

THE FAMILY of slain financial analyst Maria Pilar "Pipie" Cruz yesterday thanked millions of sympathizers around the world for responding beautifully to the story of "a wisp of a lady who was larger than life."

"The outpouring of love makes up for the pain and loss we are feeling," Pipie's older sister, Tess Cruz-Lara, said in a eulogy at the Funeraria Paz Chapel at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Temporary tomb

Pipie's ashes, kept in a wooden urn, was "temporarily housed" in a small tomb at the Manila Memorial Park at 4 p.m. yesterday.

Tess said they would later build a mausoleum for Pipay.

Tess said her sister, who died at 35, had lived a full and simple life despite her success as a financial analyst at the Barclays Bank in New York.

"There are still so many things about my sister that I had not known until we lost her," Tess said.

She added, "Pipie had a heart of gold but she did not advocate her accomplishments and good deeds."

Extraordinary

Tess said she did not know that Pipie had spent her first Thanksgiving in the United States feeding the homeless in a shelter in Houston, Texas.

"She was really an extraordinary person," Tess said, smiling.

Tess added that her younger sister had visited terminally ill AIDS patients in Houston to give them hope and cheer them up.

"She really had a way of making people feel special," Tess said, recounting the times when Pipie had treated her siblings to their favorite restaurants and gave them gifts.

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ROLLBACK
A worker stacks steel cannisters of liquefied petroleum gas at a store on Kamias Road in Quezon City. The sign shows the rolled back price of the cooking gas.
JOAN BONDOC

METROBRIEFS

Father convicted

THE PASIG Regional Trial Court handed the death penalty on Friday to Romeo Miranda, 53, a barber from Sta. Ana, Pateros, for raping his 17-year-old daughter three years ago inside their house. Judge Agnes Reyes Carpio of Branch 261 also ordered him to pay his daughter P150,000 for civil and moral damages. *Luige del Puerto*

Heart attack

JOHN Reed Alcantara, 14, a second year high school student at the Esteban Abada High School in Sampaloc, Manila, allegedly died of heart attack while engaged in a scuffle with a classmate. SPO2 Edison Bertoldo said Alcantara and his classmate were teasing each other on the school grounds when they had an argument and got into a fight. But even before Alcantara's classmate could lay a hand on him, he passed out. *Catherine Sevilla*

Shot dead

A CELL phone repairman was shot dead in Caloocan City yesterday afternoon after he tried to save one of his customers from two robbers. Ismael Espiritu, 31, a former security guard, died of a gunshot wound in his chest, police reported yesterday. At about 1:30 p.m., Jacqueline Ng, 20, bought a cell phone case at the Espiritu Cell Phone and Accessories Repair shop when two robbers demanded her cell phone. Espiritu ran to help Ng but one of the robbers shot him. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Torres homecoming

GRADUATES of Torres High School will hold their 2nd General Alumni Homecoming on March 20 at the THS Oval in Juan Luna, Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila. For registration, visit Mrs. Finn Santos at the library during school day or call her at 253-88-30 or 293-77-86. Or call Carmelita de La Rosa-Ching at 285-2835.

Camp Crame tears down fire hazards

To prevent repeat of depot blaze

By Christian V. Esguerra

AFTER the fire that gutted its arms depot, the Philippine National Police yesterday began demolishing at least nine "condemned" buildings at its main headquarters in Camp Crame.

The first to go were two barracks at the Traffic Management Group compound that had sheltered "squatting" policemen and their families, according to Senior Supt. Geary Barias, Crame commander.

P14-M in bombs

Three warehouses at the Logistic Support Service compound were declared fire hazards by PNP engineers.

The compound also housed the old, two-story LSS building where at least P14 million worth of bombs and ammunition went up in smoke last Feb. 25.

The list of condemned structures included the old gasoline station at the LSS compound, two buildings of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, and another one at the Engineering Service compound.

Barias and his men already began inspecting all buildings in Camp Crame last week for faulty electrical connections.

Electrical wiring

PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. had also ordered the installation of fire fighting and electrical equipment in each building.

Barias said new transformers would also be installed to ease the load in certain connections.

At least P10 million would be spent for the new electrical requirements and the demolition.

Ebdane told reporters they were convinced that the armory fire was triggered by nothing but tangled electrical wires.

In its progress report, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group claimed there could have been no sabotage, arson or foul play. No flammable substance in the old LSS building was found, the report said.

No irregularity

Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, CIDG director, also maintained that none of the receipts and invoices that were burned with the building was the subject of "any irregularity of transactions."

The fire that hit the LSS compound forced the closure of Edsa and the suspension of the operation of the Metro Rail Transit after explosions sent shrapnel and other debris onto the highway and the nearby train station.

Don't act suspicious in Marikina

By Luige del Puerto

WHILE acknowledging that asking suspicious-looking persons to get off FX taxis or jeepneys to be searched was questionable, the police in Marikina City said it was needed to ensure public safety.

"It's a matter of protecting the rights of the many and the rights of the few," said Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr, Marikina Police chief.

"We have to do this to stop robberies," he added.

Besides, Rojas claimed, passengers and drivers want this.

The police chief was explaining the scheme agreed upon by the city police and jeepney and FX taxi drivers to counter robberies in public utility vehicles.

In the scheme, a driver can pull over to a police checkpoint and ask the police to frisk a passenger whom he suspects could be planning a heist.

Rojas clarified that the routine would not be equivalent to a random check.

The procedure would be as follows. Once the driver pulls over, the cops would "view" the passengers inside.

Next, those who "fit" the profile of a suspect: a man between 19 to 26 years old, wearing loose shorts and shirts, and carrying either a backpack or a belt bag, would be asked to disembark and be searched.

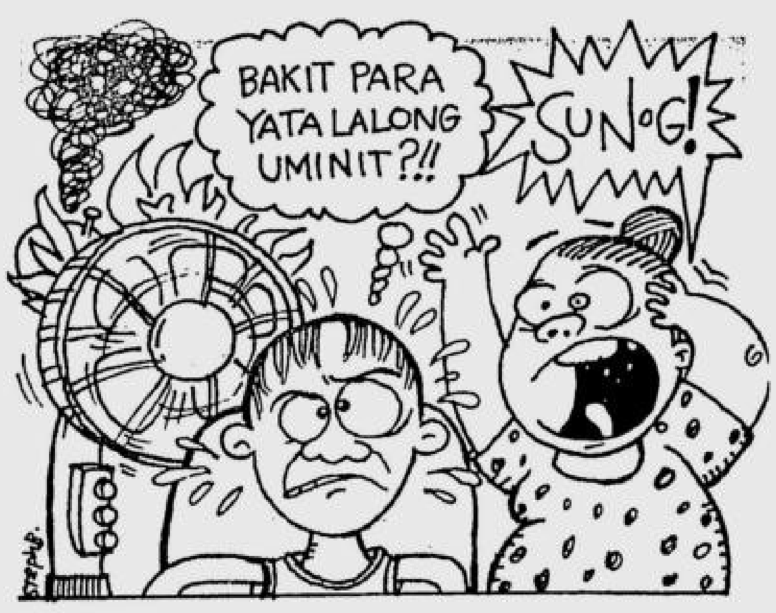
Rojas said the move was aimed at protecting passengers as he stressed that those who would be searched should not be offended.

As part of their counter-robbery measures, the police already started placing stickers with rescue and police numbers on jeepneys and FX taxis.

The numbers are 161 for emergency and rescue, and 646-1651 and 0916-6833825 for the police.

"We placed them in front of the vehicle so that the driver and the passengers could easily them," Rojas said.

He added, "That way, if a robber sees it, he would think twice about pulling anything off.


BAKIT PARA YATA LALONG UMINIT?!!
SUNOG!

'Pamaypay' can save homes, lives, says official

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

REDISCOVERING the use of the traditional *pamaypay* (fan) this summer may not only save money for costly electricity bills, but also save lives and property.

Valenzuela City fire chief Efren Yadao said hand-held fans required no electricity and did not overheat, unlike electric fans and air-conditioners.

Yadao made the statement as a reminder for Fire Prevention Month and the start of summer.

The fire official noted that because of the heat, people in the metropolis use more their air-conditioners or electric fans, which may overheat.

He thus urged Metro Manila residents to allow their cooling appliances even a few hours to rest every day.

Yadao warned that many fires were started by air-conditioners or electric fans used non-stop.

Owners are advised to turn their electrical appliances off when leaving the house or office.

Owners should also check electrical wires in their homes.

Apart from rats that may tear them apart, the plastic covers of some wires could also melt because of the summer heat, exposing the wires and becoming potential fire starters, Caloocan City fire chief Agapito Nacario also said.

More than 60 percent of the fires recorded in the country last year were electricity-related. Twenty-five percent of the fires were caused by candles or gas stoves, Nacario told the INQUIRER, citing records from the Bureau of Fire Prevention (BFP).

Thus, Nacario also cautioned people from using candles, especially because brownouts are predicted to occur during the summer.

Yadao said because of high temperature, grasses, trees and even construction materials in buildings and houses become dry, making them easy to catch fire.

Thus, BFP operations deputy chief Enrique Linsangan is suggesting that people always store a drum of water or keep a fire extinguisher in your house or office.

Useless Coast Guard

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

WE MIGHT as well disband the Coast Guard because it's a useless agency.

The number of missing passengers aboard the SuperFerry 14 which caught fire and sank off Corregidor and Bataan would have been minimal had Coast Guard ships been sent immediately to the disaster site.

It took the Coast Guard more than four hours to respond to the emergency when the mishap site is less than 30 minutes away from the Coast Guard headquarters at the South Harbor.

The Coast Guard commandant should be replaced.

* * *

The Abu Sayyaf claims that one of its members planted a bomb on the Super Ferry 14.

Isn't it the job of the Coast Guard to safeguard commercial ships and their passengers?

If the terrorist group's claim is true, then how come Coast Guard personnel, who guarded the gangplank to the ill-fated ship, were not able to detect a bomb that was carried aboard?

Again, the Coast Guard commandant should be sacked.

* * *

Anthony Sol Cruz of the intelligence division of the Bulacan provincial police force is just a PO1. Police Officer 1 is the lowest rank in the Philippine National Police (PNP).

And yet this guy lives in style. He goes around in flashy cars, stays in multi-million-peso condominiums, and sends his children to ivy league schools.

How can he afford the lifestyle of the rich and famous?

Well, he allegedly swindles people by pretending to be a wealthy businessman.

Sol Cruz has at least five estafa cases in different courts in Bulacan and Metro Manila. In one case, Sol Cruz allegedly swindled a businessman of P14 million.

"He's a glib talker. He's very convincing... so I trusted him in a business deal," said one of Sol Cruz's victims.

Sol Cruz has five warrants of arrest from his five estafa cases. In one arrest warrant, no bail has been set for him. But he's still out of jail. He reports to his unit at the Bulacan PNP every day.

Why hasn't he been arrested yet?

* * *

What's the primary job of the PNP Intelligence Group (IG)? Spying on enemies of the state.

But that's not what IG is doing, according to my sources in Camp Crame.

Members of IG have been raiding illegal gambling dens and prostitution houses.

The reason? There's plenty of money in those places. There's no money in spying on communist and secessionist groups.

* * *

Judge Generosa Labra of the Cebu City Regional Trial Court has reversed his own decision two years ago disallowing cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. to post bail for parricide.

Ecleo is charged with the brutal killing of his wife.

In allowing Ecleo to post bail, Judge Labra said she was moved by "humanitarian reason" on account of Ecleo's health and the lack of facilities in the city jail to address his medical needs.

* * *

It is doubtful that Ecleo is so sick he needs to be hospitalized.

Baka nag-aarte lang yan.

A hospital physician reportedly testified in Labra's court during the bail hearing that the cult leader had some "cardiac abnormality."

Labra said that Ecleo should seek medical help because of his serious ailment.

Cardiac abnormality is a serious ailment? It could be a skipping heartbeat, which is definitely not a serious ailment.

He got that by allegedly taking so much shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride). A prison guard found shabu in one of the items brought in for Ecleo in his early days of confinement at the Cebu provincial jail.

* * *

Mayor Percival P. Morales of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque is trying to cover up a rape case filed against him by a 16-year-old girl by allegedly bribing the girl's mother.

Morales allegedly paid off the mother P750,000.

But the girl is not dropping the rape case against the mayor even if the mother keeps convincing her to do so.

The girl is now in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" program is helping the girl with the rape case against the mayor.

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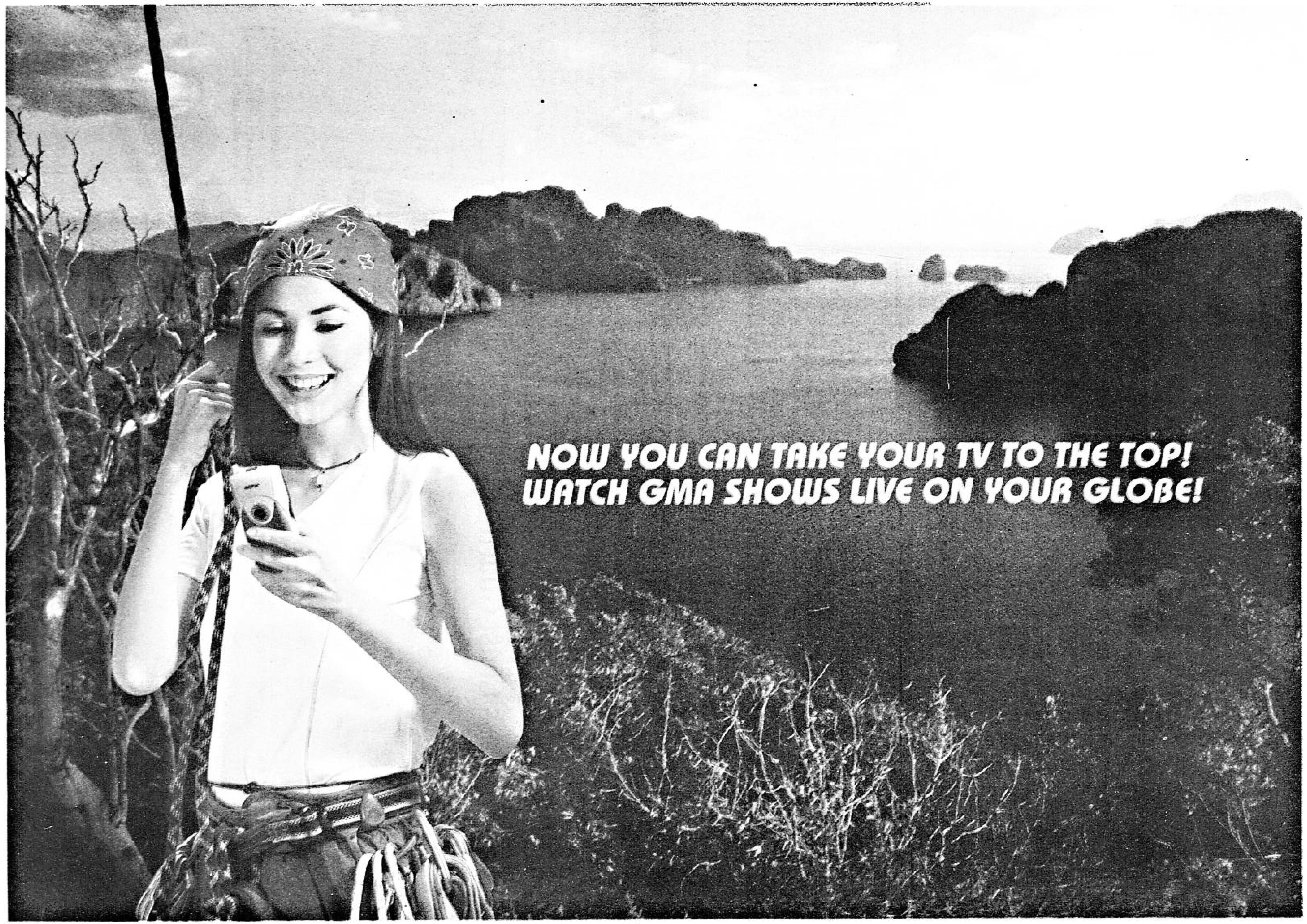
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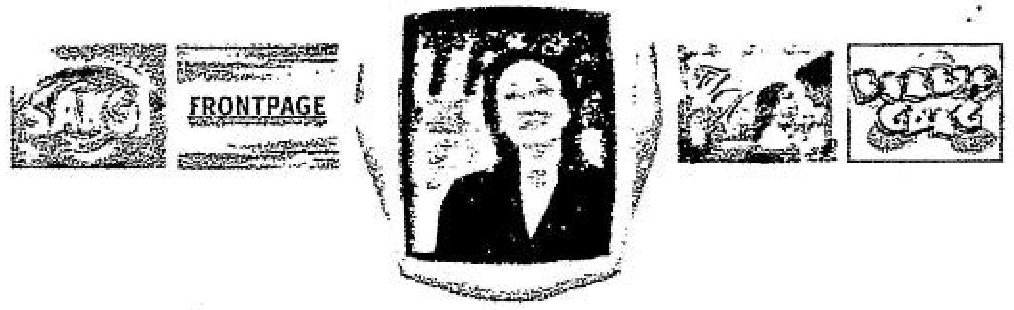

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SPORTS TV

BASKETBALL: NBA -Raptors vs Wizards; 8 a.m. (r - 7:30 p.m.); Sports Plus (Destiny 17); Rockets vs Lakers; 7 p.m.; IBC 13 - Battered and bruised Toronto takes on struggling Washington while Yao Ming leads Houston as they battle Shaq and Los Angeles.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 3; 9 p.m.; Star Sports - Efren "Bata" Reyes weaves his magic against Nick Van Den Berg.

FOOTBALL: UEFA Cup; 3:30 p.m.; Star Sports - Villareal takes on Galatasaray in the third round of the second leg.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Compiled by L. Mangulat

PAL INTERCLUB

Del Monte fires record 156

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

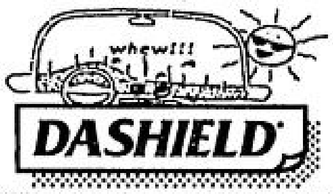
CAGAYAN DE ORO—First time I heard of 156.

An awed Canlubang team captain Luigi Yulo blurted this out yesterday after co-host Del Monte, with three players combining on a 13-under medal score, fashioned out the strongest team output in the history of the Philippine Airlines Interclub championship.

The Bukidnon-based club that produced Celestino Tugot and Frankie Miñoza sent chills running down the spine of defending champion and outstanding favorite Canlubang as Uratex caddie veteran Ramon Jaraula fired a sensational seven-under-par 65 for a record high 43 points.

Lino Retuerto, whose father Roger is the swing guru of Miñoza, shot a 68 for 40 points, Joel Opaco added a 70 for 38 and Arsenio Mondilla completed the unprecedented 156 with a 35 as national

DEL MONTE/ A20



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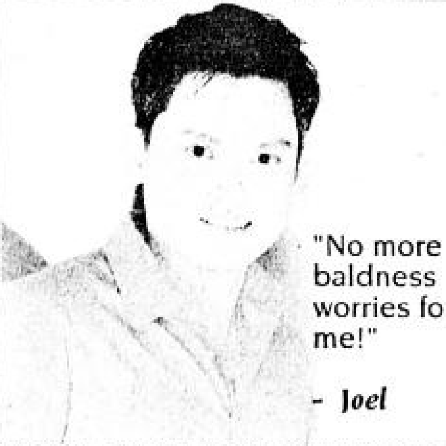

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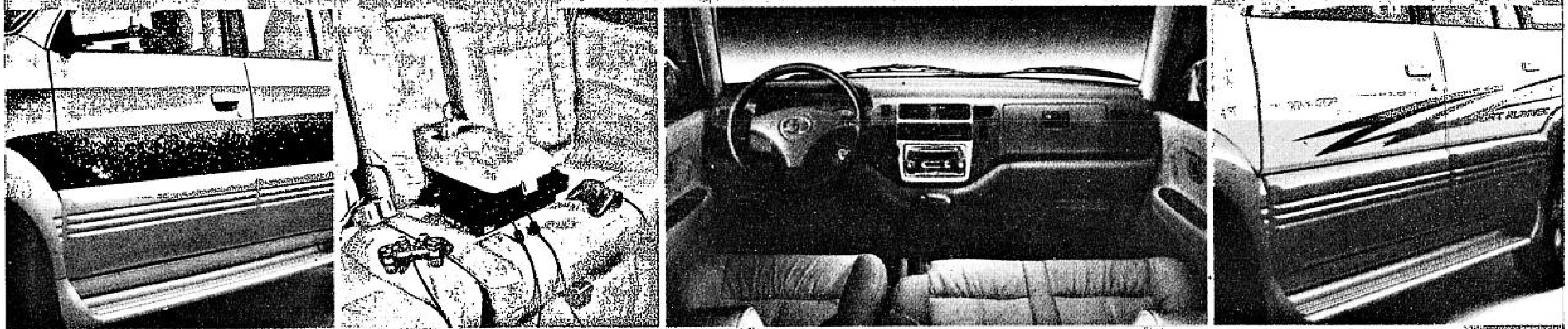

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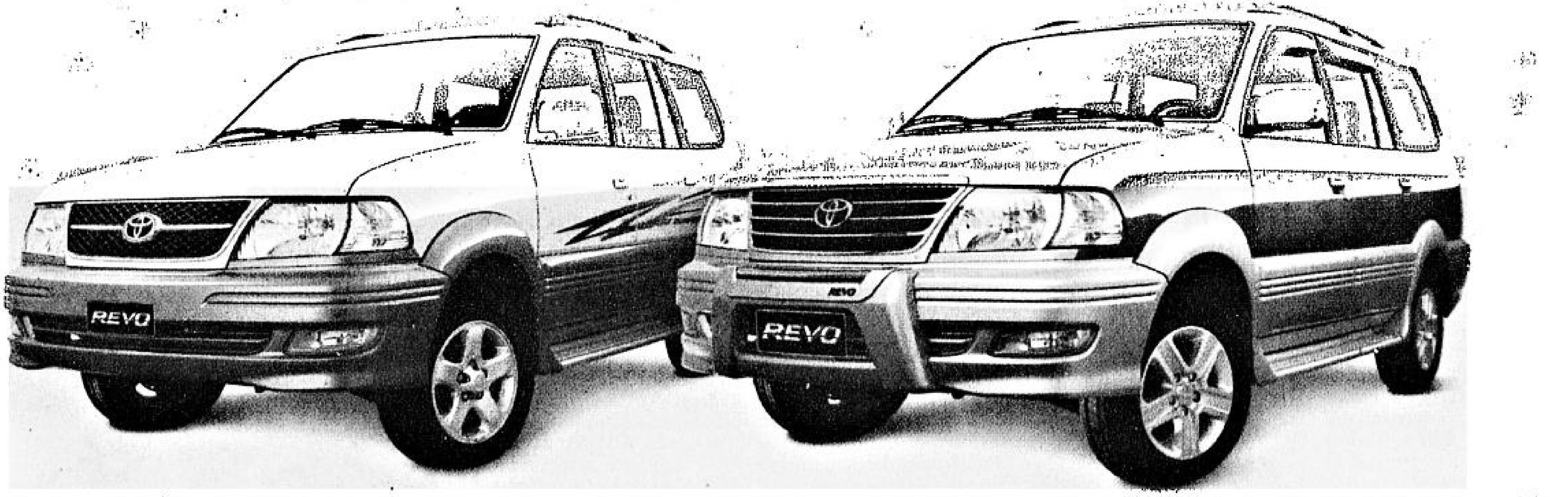

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Barakos, Tigers hurdle rivals

By Trina Ibarle

JUNTHY Valenzuela keyed Red Bull Barakos' come-from-behind victory over Sta. Lucia Realty, 85-84, in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Cup at the Philsports Arena last night.

Valenzuela's jumper from an offensive board by Davonn Harp allowed the Barakos to wrest control from an 83-84 deficit in the final tick of the game.

After a series of time-outs, the Realtors were unable to score on that one-second possession with a three-point flub from import Lamayn Wilson spelling Sta. Lucia's second straight setback from the conference opener.

The Barakos posted their first win in two games.

The end result typified the Barakos' struggle to gain the upper hand from their green-clad opponents, who led throughout the game.

"The boys simply refused to lose," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "We had some match-up problems. Sta. Lucia had two excellent isolation players in Dennis (Espino) and Marlou (Aquino), and their import can shoot. We had to work a little harder."

Newly acquired import Bingo Merriex powered the Barakos with 18 points and 15 rebounds, but Guiao felt Merriex still needs to adjust more to Red Bull's brand of play.

"He needs to blend more with the team," said Guiao of his new import, who came in to replace ineffective Carlos Wheeler in the Thunder's second outing.

The Realtors dictated the tempo of the game after gaining the advantage over Red Bull in the first quarter, leading by as many as 15 points in the third quarter, 60-45.

However, sophomore Enrico Villanueva and diminutive Topex Robinson whipped up the Barakos' comeback from a sleepy offense toward the fourth quarter with a 68-67 threat.

Merriex and Harp stayed at Sta. Lucia's heels in the final minutes, keeping within firing range as Red Bull's offense finally stirred to life.

Wilson led the Realtors with 31 points, while Espino and Aquino added 14 points apiece.

Mark Sandford and Gary David led Coca-Cola to an 86-83 triumph over Alaska in the second game.

The Aces' Mike Cortez and Brandon Cablay scored the last four points for Alaska in the final ten seconds, but their effort fell short.

Sanford, the Tigers' import, scored 40 points for the Tiger's first victory in two outings. David, the 10th pick overall in the rookie draft, scored 13.

Alaska slipped to a 1-1 tally.

RED BULL 85—Merriex 18, Harp 14, Bagulo 11, Valenzuela 11, Villanueva 8, Tugade 7, Se 6, Lopez 5, Robinson 5, Ordonio 0, Pennisi 0.

STA. LUCIA 84—31, Espino 14, Aquino 14, Adriano 10, Mendoza 6, Omolon 4, Locsin 2, Gonzales 2, Victolero 1, Cuan 0, Santos 0, Ong 0.

Quarters: 15-21, 38-47, 61-68, 85-84.

Second game

COCA-COLA 86—Sanford 40, David 13, Wainwright 11, Abarrientos 6, Morano 5, Hawkins 4, Antonio 3, Hugnatan 2, Reavis 2.

ALASKA 83—Peek 20, Young 19, Cortez 14, Cablay 9, Thoss 8, Duat 7, Padilla 4, Franco 2, Wilson 0, Feihl 0.

Quarters: 27-10, 41-36, 59-58, 86-83.

IGGY Clavecilla (right) of the Pueblo de Oro golf team confers with his caddy on the fifth hole in the opening of the 57th Pal Interclub yesterday. ROGER CARPIO

Del Monte fires . . .

From page A19

player Paul Miñoza did not count with a 32.

Del Monte opened up a five-point lead over Manila |Southwoods, whose youth brigade outdid itself with an equally impressive 150 on a six-under aggregate score.

Canlubang, on paper a cinch for a fifth straight title and 13th crown overall, not only found itself off the lead for the first time in many years but actually behind by 16 points despite a respectable 140 total as veteran Boyet Saragoza matched the 39 points of Southwoods' spearhead Toru Nakajima.

"It's not over, but we've got a big mountain to climb," said the popular Tommy Manotoc, who contributed 33 points for Canlubang after bagging the individual championship as a rookie for Wack Wack in the senior division last Sunday.

"The Del Monte players were very comfortable at their home course and they took advantage," said Yulo, who was thoroughly impressed by the blazing scores that produced the highest score for the day in 57 years of this event generally acknowledged as the national golf team championship.

However, Yulo noted that Del Monte had already set out with its crack players while his A-squad led by Juvic Pagunsan and Jun Bernis will be seeing action only today.

"It's a great start," said Del Monte skipper Ramon "Yoyong" Velez.

Velez said his team also has depth like Canlubang, and this the Del Monte second stringers hope to show when action shifts to the easier but wind-swept Pueblo de Oro course in this city.

The 35-year-old Jaraula came up with a nine-birdie, two-bogey effort to surpass the 42-point performance by Jun Jun Plana while playing for Aguinaldo in 1988. While an old-timer mentioned another 43 scored by Gil Ababa while playing for Mayon Imperial in the 1983 edition, this could not be confirmed.

Hotdogs parade CBA star tonight

GAME TODAY
(Lagaw Gym, General Santos City)
5:30 p.m.—Shell vs Purefoods

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Purefoods has tapped CBA veteran Reginald Butler to replace Lenny Cooke as the TJ Hotdogs collide with the Shell Turbochargers today in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Lagaw Gym here.

Listed as 6-foot-10 in the international basketball arena, the 24-year-old Butler passed the league's 6-foot-8 height limit after measuring 6-foot-6 7/8 yesterday at the PBA Commissioner's Office.

Butler, a power forward out of Xavier University in the USNCAA, is set to arrive from Manila to this city, famous for its tuna and blue marlin, at 9 a.m. today.

The TJ Hotdogs absorbed their first setback in two outings last week against Barangay Ginebra after the 6-foot-7 Cooke underwent operation to repair his torn left achilles tendon.

"Butler could dominate the paint. He's also a good defender and an aggressive rebounder," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio of his 262-pound import.

Aside from sizing up their new import, the TJ Hotdogs will be helping Alvin Patrimonio score his 2,000th assist that will make the league's four-time MVP the fifth player in PBA history to achieve the feat.

Patrimonio, 37, reached a milestone on Wednesday as he joined Mon Fernandez and Abet Guidaben as the only players who scored at least 15,000 points in their career. *June Navarro*

Lyceum Lady Pirates down Ateneans in OT

LUCENA CITY—Lyceum of the Philippines defeated Ateneo de Manila University, 53-50, in overtime yesterday, providing a glimpse of the women's finals in the National Students Basketball Championships at the Quezon Convention Center here.

It was the third straight victory for the multititled Lady Pirates even as Ateneo absorbed its first loss in three games in the week-long tournament.

Pixie Valencia, a mainstay of the national team and Lyceum's chief gunner, finished with a near triple-double of 17 points, 13 rebounds and nine steals.

Valencia also scored the game-tying baskets in regulation, scoring two freethrows to send the game into overtime at 43-all.

Divina Reyes, Joan Caso and Marilyn Mantreo took over from there, as they outscored the Lady Eagles, 10-7, in the extension.

Mantreo added 10 points, and Reyes had eight. Lyceum will take on Philippine Maritime Institute at 8 a.m. today. The PMI also needed a five-minute extension to turn back Angeles University Foundation, 76-70, behind Cris Sta. Maria's hot hands.

Sta. Maria, who led the Great Danes with 24 points, scored eight points in overtime, including two triples to preserve Allan Hicban's heroics in regulation.

With the win, the Mariners took the No. 1 spot in Group A, and will meet the No. 2 team in Group D. AUF, on the other hand, clashes with the No. 2 team in Group D in the quarterfinals of the tournament jointly organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines and the provincial government of Quezon, headed by Gov. Willie Enverga and sponsored by Cebuana Lhuillier, Burlington, Molten, Healthy Options, Absolute Distilled Water and the Philippine Sports Commission.

In Group B action, host Enverga University rolled past STI Sta. Rosa, 84-74, to bolster its chances for a quarterfinals slot. Clayven Gagarin exploded with 27 points, while Jerome Chua added 25 to lead the host's balanced attack.

PAL Interclub's 'rival' tournament

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Golfers are the most restless of athletes.

As warriors from around the world do their thing in the 57th PAL Golf Interclub at Pueblo del Oro and Del Monte in nearby Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, this city's "displaced" golfers are not to be denied. They have retreated at the Camp Evangelista Golf & Country Club, where they will hold court until Sunday as Pueblo and Del Monte have become the PAL Interclub's exclusive domain again starting Wednesday, ending on Saturday. Last week, both Pueblo and Del Monte also hosted the PAL Seniors Interclub.

But golfers are not only the most restless of athletes. They are also among the most creative in the sporting world.

Starting today, Camp Evangelista will be the venue of the Golden Friendship Tournament. It is basically a fun tournament to accommodate golfers unable to play for the next four days at Pueblo del Oro and Del Monte.

For only P500 as entrance fee, a participant can win a lot of prizes, including appliances during the raffle. TV sets, DVDs, washing machines, name it, they have it. So far, the raffle prizes total P62,897.

"Everybody is excited," said Boyet Omaga, the grounds chief of Camp Evangelista, who is one of the spearheads of the Golden Friendship Tournament. "We do not only have a tournament. We also have the chance to regroup and renew our ties again. Golf is such a great weapon to cement friendship."

Almost 150 golfers are set to tee off today at Camp Evangelista, a 9-hole layout with 18 tee boxes.

It is basically flat but if you think it's a Mickey Mouse course, think again.

Camp Evangelista is 34-34=68. It has 2 par-5s-Nos. 1 (535 yards) and 17 (442 yards). They are not easy holes as they are guarded by hazards.

Two of its six par-3s are killer holes as both are surrounded by bunkers and OBs and guarded by ponds; one has an uphill green that loves to send back putts stroked tentatively from below.

"We actually love to call our course the 'obstacle' course," said Boyet, whose younger brother is the famous Channel 2's TV Patrol mainstay Henry Omaga Diaz.

Camp Evangelista is co-owned by the Fourth Infantry Division and the Velez family. Opened in 1953, it used to be known as the Cagayan Golf & Country Club. The first hole-in-one was scored by Ahfat Yu New at No. 4 on May 17, 1953.

Membership is a steal: P10,000. Monthly dues: P500. The green fee for a non-member is also for a song: P450, from Monday to Sunday.

"You pay your dues for one year and you have a one-month discount," said Boyet, who left Manila 12 years ago after falling in love with this city of the world-famed delicious Del Monte pineapples. "We now have 200 active members."

I intend to apply not only because I've always liked golf courses that have rustic settings such as Camp Evangelista.

I might yet apply for membership because the *adobong kambing* there is one of the best this side of the globe. I was so impressed with it that I simply had to seek out the cook and shake her hand—Andrea Villarino.

"Anytime you want it, give me a ring and we will have it prepared again," said Boyet.

I'll keep that in mind.

***

FASTBREAK. The media guys from Manila and Cebu covering the 57th PAL Golf Interclub express their gratitude to Camp Evangelista officials for being gracious hosts yesterday. Special mention goes to Gen. Sammy Bagasin, Camp Evangelista president, vice president Bebot Noble, Boy Go, Boyet Omaga and my boyhood chum from Mangatarem, Pangasinan, Tom Garcia (a former vice president of the club). You made our day, fellas.

SPORTSWATCH

Pacquiao trainer confident of win

TRAINER of the Year Freddie Roach believes universal featherweight king Manny Pacquiao is on for a "very difficult fight," but remains confident the Filipino ring hero will come out on top of Mexican idol Juan Manuel Marquez when they tangle in a proposed HBO card on May 22. Roach, in an interview with Boxing Time, reveals that the 30-year-old Marquez (42-2, 33 KO's) is probably the toughest opponent for Pacquiao (38-2-1, 30 KO's) today, but with enough training, Pacquiao will be able to tame Marquez. "We will start training 8 weeks before the fight to get ready for this. It will be a difficult fight, but I believe Manny has what it takes to beat this kid. But it is going to be a very good fight, no doubt about that," said Roach. Pacquiao is planning to fly to the United States after March 25. ***Salven Lagumbay, Contributor***

Olympian Lerio hangs up gloves

SYDNEY Olympian Danilo Lerio has finally decided to hang up his gloves for good after a brief stint in the pro ranks. Soc Piñol, Lerio's manager, informed this writer that his ward has told him that the hunger and motivation that once brought him amateur glory is no longer there. "He told me that the hunger is no longer there. So we just have to move on," Piñol said, while adding that he will continue to lend livelihood assistance to Lerio as a rice dealer. The Antipas, North Cotabato-born Lerio leaves the game with a pro record of 5 wins and 1 loss with no knockout victory. His only loss is a disputed split decision to Along Dinoy in 2002, a fight all ringside spectators—except two of the three judges—said Lerio won. Lerio was part of the boxing team that saw action in the 2000 Sydney Olympics but lost out to Spain's Rafael Lozano, 17-15, in the quarterfinals. ***Salven Lagumbay, Contributor***

ASTC approves triathlon venue

THE ASIAN Triathlon Confederation (ASTC) has given its approval on the course of the Speedo Asian Triathlon Championship 2004 set at Subic Bay Freeport on April 3 and 4, expressing satisfaction on the preparation for this Olympic qualifying event. A tactical race is seen notwithstanding the 1.5-kilometer swim and 10-km run legs as the three-loop 40-kilometer bike course is toughened with a 2.1-km uphill climb. "With this adjustment, our Asian triathletes will have a preview of the punishing bike leg in Athens," said Masao Nakayama, ASTC vice president who headed the team that inspected the race route and met with the organizing committee headed by Tom Carrasco, Triathlon Association of the Philippines president. Andrew Patrick, chair of the ASTC Technical Committee, and Taka Nagaya, ASTC technical committee chair rounded out the team evaluating the championship. Registration may be made at (HYPERLINK"mailto:contactus@triathlon.org.ph") or call tels. 0920-6030898/Dong; 0916-2653109/Fabletel/523-6280).

Laguna, NCR, Negros, Cebu advance

LAGUNA beat Davao, 2-1, with an 81st minute counter-attack finish by Richmond Braga to enter the SuperFerry National Championship semifinals last Tuesday. NCR/Philippine Air Force got a hat trick from Edzel Bragamonte (6,33,84) and a goal each by Yanti (29), Roroy Pinero (80) and Felix Piao (86) to steamroll over Cagayan De Oro-Misamis Oriental, 6-1. With the victory, NCR takes first spot in Group A and will meet Group B second-placer Cebu in a semifinal match on Thursday. In Group B, national champion Negros Occidental nipped chief rival Cebu, 2-1.

Football Night at Manila Pavilion April 3

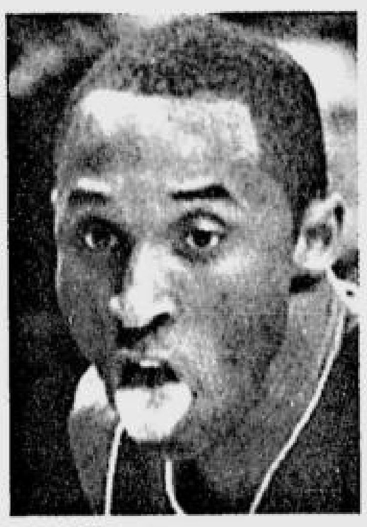
A GRAND Football night will be held on April 3 at the Manila Pavilion with 500-600 guests expected. The Philippine Football Federation will gather presidents, officials, administrators, sponsors or supporters who kept the flame for the sport burning in their hearts. A special table will be given to sports columnists, who will witness the giving of award to the "PFF Football Player of the Year," the presentation of the PFF's 5-year development plan and the induction of the newly elected president and the new Board of Governors and officers of the PFF. The big night is also a fund raising affair.

Slasher Cup stakes P1.5 million

MORE than 200 entries are expected in Roligon Mega Cockpit's "Slasher Cup Ng Masa 6-Cock Derby" on March 24, 26, 29 and 31. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P1.5 million while entry fee is P8,800, according to Roligon owner Rolly Ligon, who is providing full support to derby host and tabloid executive Rey Briones. So far, 120 participants have confirmed their participation. Among them are Clyde Fernandez, Bong Cayabyab and mayor Bebot Villar of Pangasinan, Bubot Booc of Pampanga, Bing Paras, Jun Cartina and councilor Itan Veluz of Cavite, governor Tony Kho, vice governor Mario Espinosa and mayor Bing Abapo of Masbate, Tata Ino Sayat and Honey Yu of Lucena and Toto Lacson and Joey Venancio of Romblon. For reservation of cockhouses, call 833-2275, 833-1638, 852-9774 and 852-9812 (look for Shirley or Tiling).

Healthy Options

INTER-COLLEGIATE OPENING
Quezon Province governor Willie Enverga (middle) tosses the ceremonial ball in the PMI-Urius College tussle ushering the 58th National Students Basketball Championship at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City. Also shown are BAP secretary general Graham Lim, treasurer Tony Fabico, Lucena City Mayor Ramon Y. Talaga and BAP deputy secretary general Jun Lavadia.



BRYANT

Kobe accuser denies she had sex after alleged attack

EAGLE, Colorado—The attorney for the woman accusing Kobe Bryant of rape said she did not have sex with someone else hours after the alleged attack, hoping to defuse an explosive claim from the defense. The judge later agreed to allow Bryant's attorneys to question the woman in significant detail about her sexual history.

State District Judge Terry Ruckriegle's decision was announced as a two-day hearing ended without rulings on two main issues: the relevance of the woman's sexual conduct in the days surrounding her encounter with Bryant, and whether investigators questioned the NBA star illegally.

Those matters will be taken up again during a March 24-25 hearing at which the accuser is expected to testify.

As he left the courthouse, Bryant smiled, waved and flashed the peace sign to a dozen children who shouted his name and held cardboard signs saying, "Kobe Bryant is Innocent."

Earlier, seven young people arrived to testify in the closed hearing about the 19-year-old woman's sexual history. Six arrived together, the two males looking down and shielding their faces with baseball caps. They were whisked away in one of the defense's sport utility vehicles at the end of the day.

The woman has told police she had sex with someone two days before the alleged attack. The defense, however, insists she slept with "multiple" partners that week—including someone less than 15 hours after her encounter with Bryant.

In a rare public statement Tuesday, the woman's attorney, John Clune, called that claim "patently false" and said attorneys trying to prove otherwise would be "chasing ghosts." He said his client is confident the trial will remain focused on Bryant's conduct. He declined further comment.

Bryant, 25, has said the two had consensual sex. The Los Angeles Lakers star faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted of the felony sexual assault charge.

The sexual activity of an alleged victim is presumed to be irrelevant under Colorado's rape-shield law, which Bryant's attorneys have challenged as unconstitutional. To present details of other sexual activity to a jury, defense attorneys must prove to a judge it is relevant.

Defense attorneys Hal Haddon and Pamela Mackey say details of the woman's sex life are important in determining whether she was injured by other sexual partners and whether she suffered emotional trauma. *AP*

SEAG Fed meeting on; venues tour scrapped

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHEN the Southeast Asian Games Federation meets today for the 2005 Manila Games, there's one part of the ritual that will be skipped—the routine tour of the venues.

Sources at the Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday said the 43 delegates from 11 member-countries won't get the usual trip to the games' venues because there isn't anywhere else to go.

Instead, the delegates will sit down in three simultaneous meetings at the Westin Philippine Plaza to discuss topics like women in sports, sports science and medicine and the much-anticipated rules in sports.

The only certain venue right now is the 70-year-old Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, which has hosted the Games in 1981 and 1991.

The POC said the venues will be discussed after the two-day federation meetings, including the selection of Metro Manila's co-hosts.

Though the Philippine Sports Commission earlier proposed sites of the games, the POC said the selection will have to pass through the Philsoc venues and sites committee.

Whatever is discussed in the three meetings set in the morning will be presented in the SEAG federation council later in the afternoon.

Included in the discussion is the composition of the sports disciplines to be played in the biennial meet.

Former PSC commissioner Cynthia Carrion will head the talks about women in sports, while Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, head of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine, will be at the helm of sports science and medicine.

Olympex unfolds today

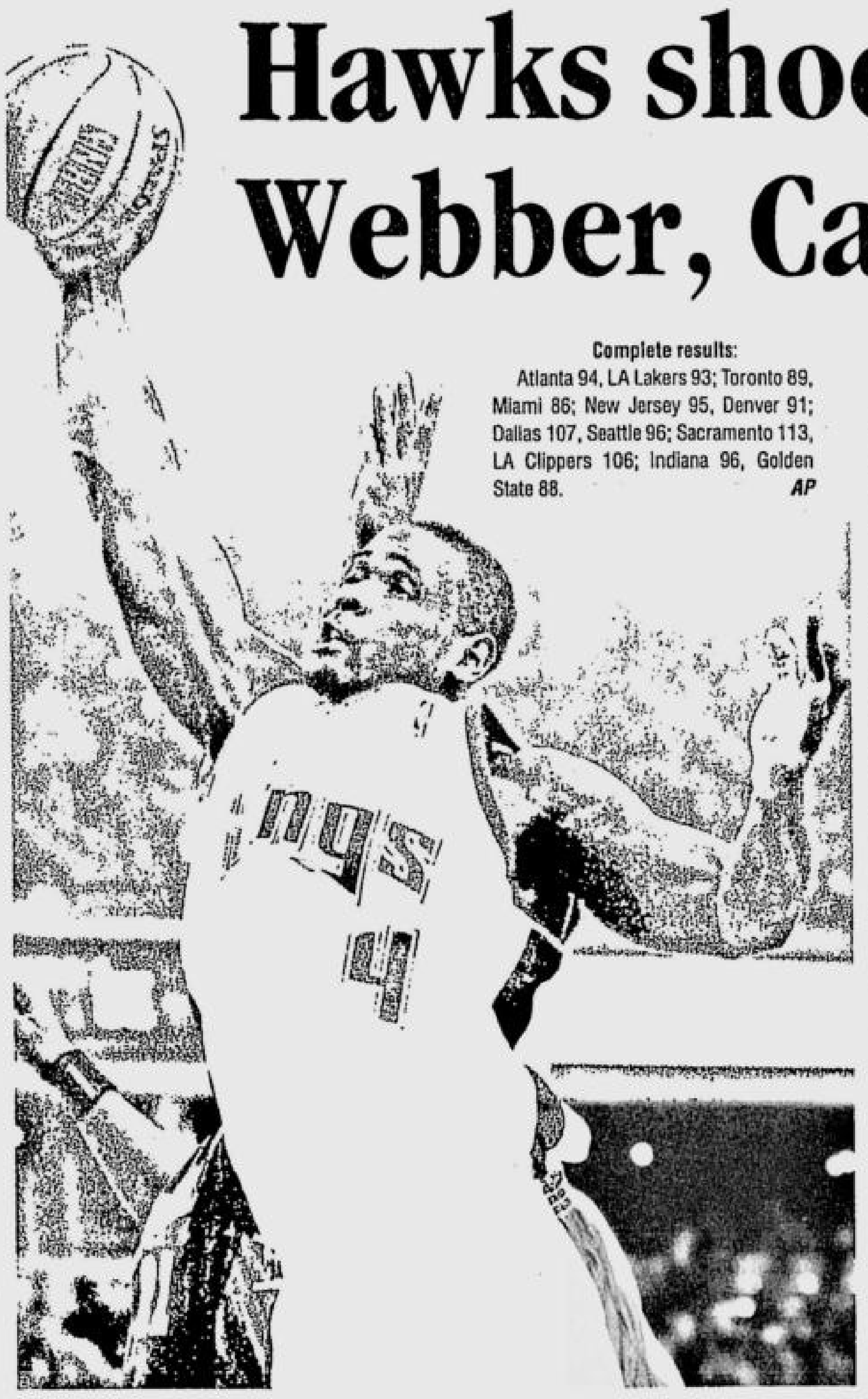
THE FIRST-EVER international trade exposition on sports, fitness and leisure to be held in the Philippines and the Southeast Asian region, also called Olympex 2004, unfolds today at the new exhibition hall of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

Presented jointly by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Department of Tourism, the event aims to promote trade, commerce and tourism through sports. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

With the theme "forging ties through sports and fitness," the four-day expo, which is open to the public, is expected to attract a broad base of foreign and local visitors. Sponsors are FedEx, Air 21, Exportbank, Speedo, Westin Philippine Plaza, Milo, Bankard and Sta. Lucia Realty.

For inquiries, call 672-2220.

Hawks shock Lakers; Webber, Carter back



WEBBER pulls down a rebound.

AP

Complete results:

Atlanta 94, LA Lakers 93; Toronto 89, Miami 86; New Jersey 95, Denver 91; Dallas 107, Seattle 96; Sacramento 113, LA Clippers 106; Indiana 96, Golden State 88. *AP*

ATLANTA—Jason Terry's free throw with 11.9 seconds left put Atlanta ahead, and Gary Payton and Shaquille O'Neal missed last-second shots as the Hawks rallied for a 94-93 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

"It's the greatest feeling we've had all year," Terry said.

Kobe Bryant, the Lakers' leading scorer, was in Colorado on Tuesday for a closed hearing in the sexual assault case against him. It was the first time this season he missed a game when healthy; he sat out 14 others with various injuries.

Terry finished with 23 points and Stephen Jackson added 13 for the Hawks, who won for only the second time in seven games.

O'Neal and Payton each scored 23 for the Lakers.

In Miami, Vince Carter came off the injured list and scored 27 points to help Toronto snap a nine-game losing streak as the Raptors beat the Miami Heat, 89-86.

The teams combined to score 19 points in the fourth quarter, breaking the NBA record for fewest combined points (20) in the final period.

The game ended with Miami coach Stan Van Gundy rushing toward the officials and screaming after no foul was called on Chris Bosh as he defended Eddie Jones' 3-point attempt just before the final buzzer.

In Sacramento, California, Chris Webber had 26 points and 12 rebounds in his season debut as Sacramento beat the Los Angeles Clippers, 113-106.

Webber was cheered from the moment he took the court for the first time since injuring his knee in the second round of last season's playoffs.

Webber replaced Brad Miller in the starting lineup, but the All-Star center responded with 23 points and nine rebounds—including 17 points in 17 first-half minutes. *AP*

Ayala course in Laguna suits all handicap levels

By Roy Luarca

JONES Jr. (right) inspects the golf course with (from left) Mel Cruz, ALI CMG division manger; Joel Luna, ALI AVP; and Mike Kahler, Robert Trent Jones II director for Asia.

NATURE-TRIPPING golfers need not go far to play a round soon. Rising in a rolling terrain tucked in the slopes of Mt. Makiling and offering a view of Taal Lake and Laguna de Bay is the Ayala Greenfield Estates, a 500-hectare golfing community in Calamba, Laguna.

More than a thousand trees have been planted and two lakes are being constructed to complement the contour of the grassy land caressed by breezy winds.

The course, just like past creations of the renowned Robert Trent Jones, is designed to conform with the landscape, not alter it.

"This is harmonious with the land. We shaped it so that when you play here, you'd think it was here for something like 30 years," said Robert Trent Jones Jr., who has put up more than 200 courses around the world.

"We didn't have to move millions of tons of dirt. We just shaped it according to the natural contour of the land. This golf course is consistent with the existing environment, not contradict what nature has to offer," said Greg Graham, Ayala Greenfield golf counselor.

Jones, who revisited the country recently to see the development of the 18-hole, 6,500-yard Ayala Greenfield layout, said it has a unique character that suits the needs of all players.

"When I design courses, there's one thing I keep in mind: It's always easy to design a tough course. But it's hard to design a challenging course, that is, at the same time, golfer-friendly," added Jones.

Wrapped around a hill once ravaged by quarrying, the course offers varying wind character from tee-off up to holing out.

Against the wind, with it, swirling or crossing over; the tests are there.

And yet, there are ways to recovery. The back nine of the course features three par-fives, a rarity in golf courses.

"When you design a course, there's no rule saying you can't have three par-fives, which are, essentially, birdie holes. We wanted this course to be playable. There are multiple tees, hazards with bail-out shots and open-entrance greens," said Jones.

"The goal was not to defeat the best players but to find out who they are," he added.

For Jones, a course should encourage ordinary hackers to go back to the first tee after a round.

"Most golfers are not made with the average player in mind. This one is," said Graham.

Tristan dela Rosa, senior vice president of Ayala Land, Jun Bisnar, AVP, and Mel Cruz, project director, were all in praise of the course and how it blends with its natural surroundings.

Of course, Ayala Greenfield Estate offers a lot other than the course which is to open early next year. There would be a 15-hectare nature park, a tree nursery, and two club houses designed for the whole family. Hangouts such as swimming pools, play rooms, spas, gyms, billiards, badminton and basketball courts and other amenities would make the wife and the children comfortable while the father plays.

Truly, it would be a well-planned community in harmony with nature.

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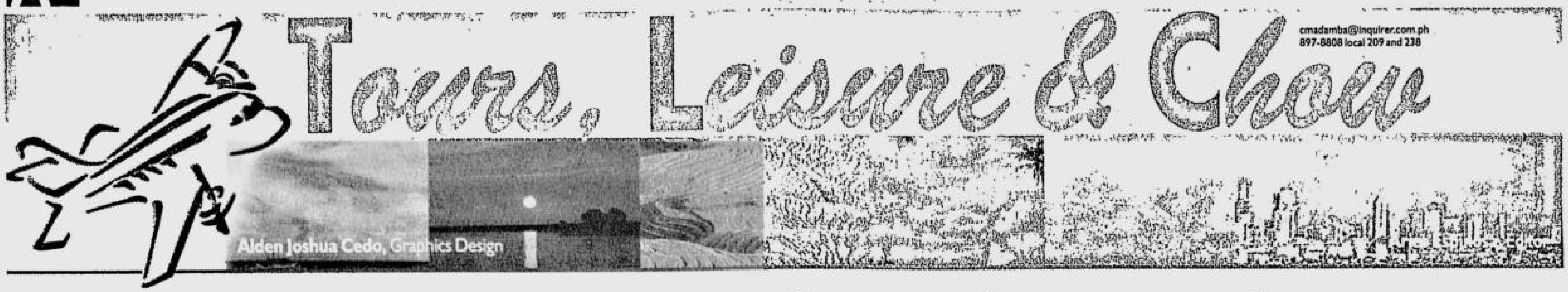
Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Mandarin Oriental acclaimed Best Business Hotel for the third time

Mandarin Oriental was voted by readers of Business Asia and viewers of CNBC Asia as the country's best business hotel

MANDARIN Oriental, Manila recently received the 2003 Best Business Hotel in the Philippines award for the third time. It was voted by readers of Business Asia and viewers of CNBC Asia as the country's best business hotel (among three deluxe establishments in the Philippines that were likewise short-listed). The criteria for evaluation included special business services, business and lounge facilities, conference and convention facilities, and guest reward and incentive program.

On its sixth year, the Best Business Hotels in Asia Awards, a coveted citation in the competitive Asia-Pacific hotel industry, was established to reward excellence and uplift standards in the business travel sector. Developed and produced by Business Asia magazine, an Australian-based business publication, the award's media partner is CNBC TV, a leading television network providing breakthrough information and financial commentaries. The 2003 awards registered the highest number of votes in its history with 17,000 international respondents, said the publication.

A panel of three judges—David Armstrong, editor-in-chief, South China Morning Post; Peter Charlton, publisher of Business Asia and chair, First Charlton Communications; and Robert Hecker, managing director, Howarth Asia Pacific—selected from the nominees a short-list of 85 hotels located in 14 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The contenders were then polled through magazine coupons and online voting. Respondents comprising of Business Asia readers and CNBC TV viewers, were instructed to vote for their preferred business hotel in each country.

Hotel general manager Helmut Gaisberger dedicates, "This award would not have been achieved without the tireless efforts of all my colleagues who have made it a personal commitment to delight and satisfy our guests unceasingly. And we are not about to rest on our laurels with this latest honor. For this only inspires us to continuously improve ourselves and seek more creative ways of keeping our guests, especially discriminating business travelers, happy and satisfied."

Mandarin Oriental owns and operates some of the world's most award-winning hotels and resorts. The group manages a total 18 luxury hotels in key business and leisure destinations with five more under development: Washington DC (by spring 2004); Chiang Mai (by late 2004); Hong Kong (by 2005); and Tokyo and Boston (by 2006). Mandarin Oriental now operates in 11 countries with 12 hotels in Asia, eight in the Americas and three in Europe. Mandarin Oriental International Limited is a publicly listed company and member of the Jardine Matheson Group.

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Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

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Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

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Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

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www.barcelo-asia.com

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Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

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Email. makati.citygardenhotels.com

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www.executiveplazahotel.com

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Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
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Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
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CM Recto St Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www marcopolohotels.com

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
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Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

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Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
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Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
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Taal Vista Hotel
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ASTORIA PLAZA'S ZENSATIONAL BANQUET DISCOUNT

Astoria Plaza has special graduation party and prom packages starting at only P29,000. What's more, Hold your intimate parties, meetings and special social gatherings on a Sunday and get 10 percent discounts on your banquet rates. Astoria Plaza's Zensational Banquet Discount is valid until July 30. For inquiries and reservations, visit or call 687-1111 and connect to the banquet sales office at locals 8013/8011 or 8015. The Astoria Plaza, conveniently located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City, is managed by Genesis Hotels and Resorts. Visit its webpage at www.astoriaplaza.com.

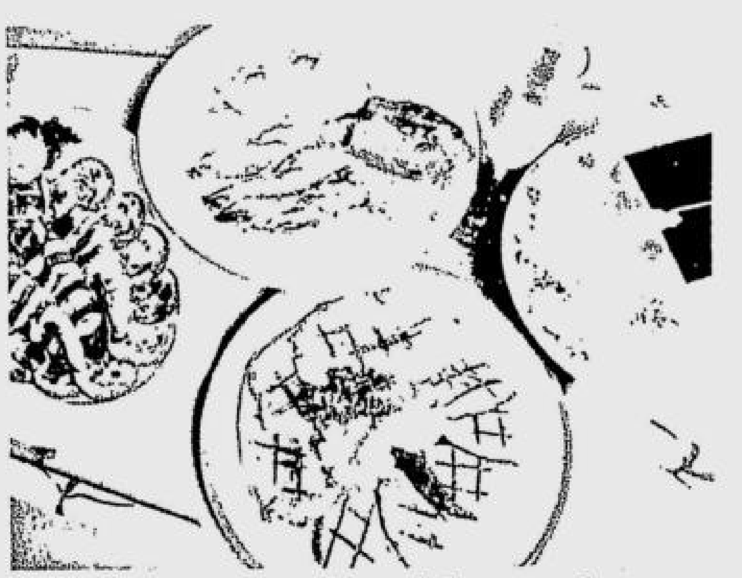
The Bellevue Hotel holds the 1st Annual Bellevue Cup

THE BELLEVUE Hotel, the premier business and leisure destination in the south of Metro Manila, holds the 1st Annual Bellevue Cup. The annual golf event aims to foster friendship, camaraderie and healthy fun among Alabang's movers and shakers. It's also a gesture of sincere appreciation for The Bellevue's valued clients and friends.

To be held at the Alabang Golf and Country Club this March 8, the highly anticipated tournament is sponsored by the North America Construction Inc, Northwest Airlines, Volvo, Globe Telecom, The Heritage Park, Chinatrust Commercial Banking Corporation, Save More Supermarket, Las Palmas Furniture, Pisanti Golf, Versia Inc, Gillette, IP Ventures, Transnational Diversified Group, American Express Travel and Adventure Travel. Alabang's business and social influentials will also grace the event.

A three-day product presentation by sponsors will be on display at the Lobby Lounge. Aside from premium giveaways and raffle prizes, the awarding ceremonies will feature a special show and a fashion presentation by some of the presentors and major sponsors.

For inquiries, call 771-8181.



Dusit Hotel Nikko salutes Batch '04 graduates

FAMILIES celebrate the momentous occasion when graduates savor the accomplishment and look forward to new beginnings.

And what better way to celebrate than at Dusit Hotel Nikko? Thien Duong restaurant—the only Vietnamese restaurant in a deluxe hotel—will offer special lunch and dinner group set menus. Pay only P2,400 for a group of four, P3,500 for a group of six and P4,500 for a group of eight (rates are exclusive of service charge and government tax). Thien Duong, Vietnamese for "Paradise", offers a distinctly intriguing combination of tastes and textures to delight the eyes and the palate. The healthy Vietnamese dishes in an elegant and classic setting is the perfect dining experience.

Fiesta San Miguel—the first and only place in a hotel offering freshly brewed San Miguel Beer—will offer special lunch and dinner "family style" set menus. Pay only P3,600+ for a group of six and P4,500+ for a group of eight. You can also dance the night away as the country's top bands perform nightly at the bar located at the restaurant's second level.

Or have a sumptuous buffet spread lunch or dinner at Dusit Hotel Nikko's The Cafe. Gift certificates worth P250 from the Deli shop will be given to diners in groups of eight, and P500 to those in groups of 10.

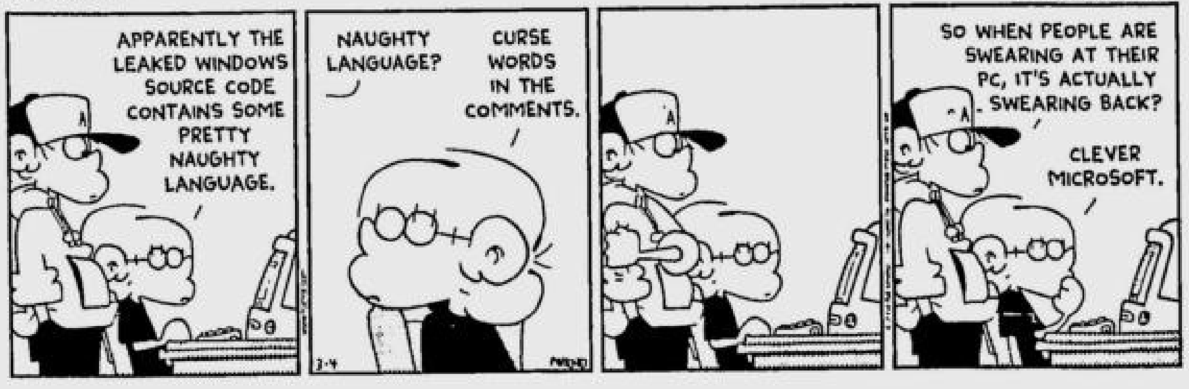
Group diners in the said three restaurants will receive a graduation cake, souvenir group photo, Vietnamese Tea (Thien Duong), a bottle of wine (The Café) or 0.3 liter of freshly brewed beer (Fiesta San Miguel). For queries and reservations, call 867-3333 extension 3308 for Fiesta San Miguel, 3354 for Thien Duong and 3346 for The Café.

CARITAS HEALTH SHIELD HOLDS CONFAB AT EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL

The employees and frontliners of Caritas Health Shield Inc from Manila-Luzon recently had a three-day Brains 2004 Conference at the Executive Plaza Hotel. Shown are the participants of the seminar with (right side, front row) Executive Plaza Hotel sales manager Ninnette Soliman and account manager Jane Lyn Jacinto welcomed the participants. Main facilitators for Caritas Health Shield's Brains Conference were president and CEO Geoffrey M. Martinez and vice president for human resources development Fredy dela Cruz.

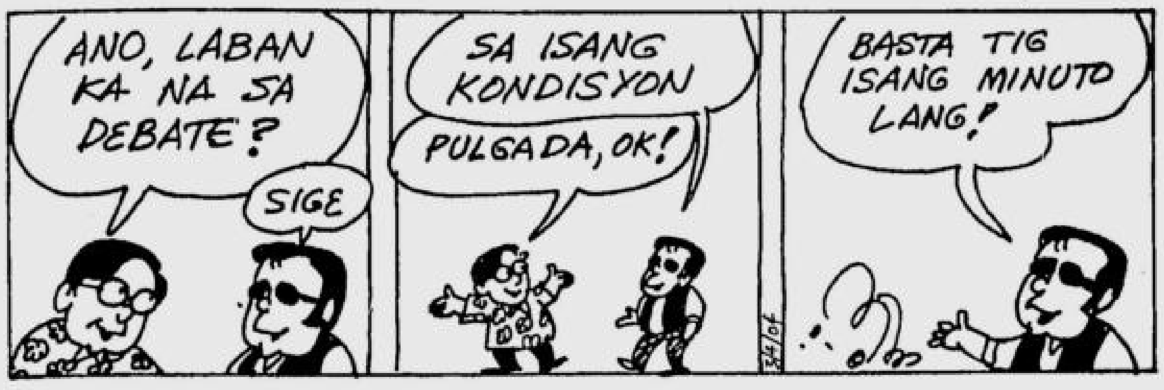
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


APPARENTLY THE LEAKED WINDOWS SOURCE CODE CONTAINS SOME PRETTY NAUGHTY LANGUAGE.
NAUGHTY LANGUAGE?
CURSE WORDS IN THE COMMENTS.
SO WHEN PEOPLE ARE SWEARING AT THEIR PC, IT'S ACTUALLY SWEARING BACK?
CLEVER MICROSOFT.
3-4

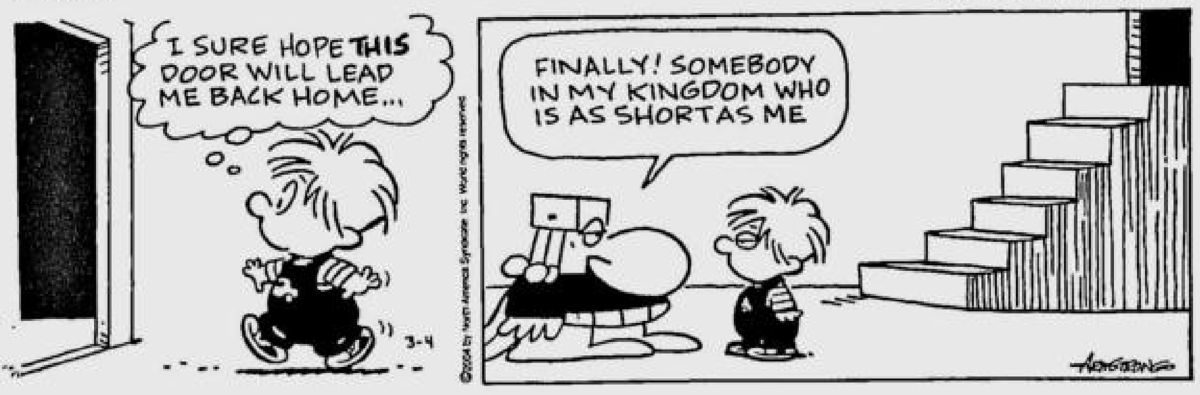
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANO, LABAN KA NA SA DEBATE?
SIGE
SA ISANG KONDISYON
PULGADA, OK!
BASTA TIG ISANG MINUTO LANG!
3-4-04

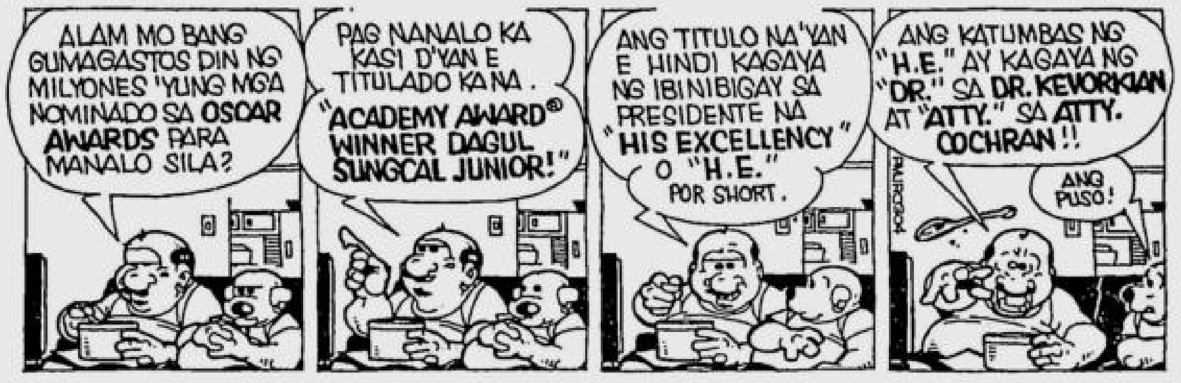
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I SURE HOPE THIS DOOR WILL LEAD ME BACK HOME...
3-4
FINALLY! SOMEBODY IN MY KINGDOM WHO IS AS SHORTAS ME
ARMSTRONG

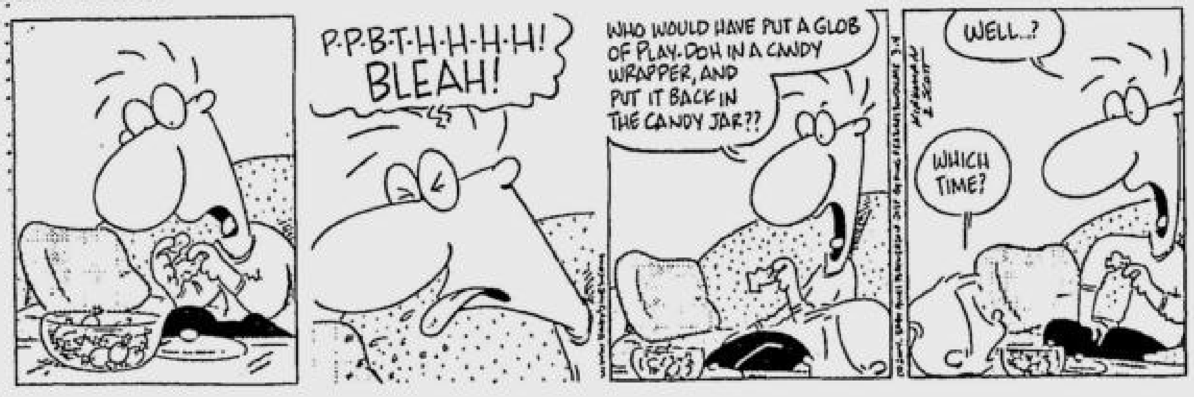
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO BANG GUMAGASTOS DIN NG MILYONES 'YUNG MGA NOMINADO SA OSCAR AWARDS PARA MANALO SILA?
PAG NANALO KA KASI D'YAN E TITULADO KA NA. "ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER DAGUL SUNGCAL JUNIOR!"
ANG TITULO NA 'YAN E HINDI KAGAYA NG IBINIBIGAY SA PRESIDENTE NA "HIS EXCELLENCY" O "H.E." POR SHORT.
ANG KATUMBAS NG "H.E." AY KAGAYA NG "DR." SA DR. KEVORKIAN AT "ATTY." SA ATTY. COCHRAN!!
ANG PUSO!

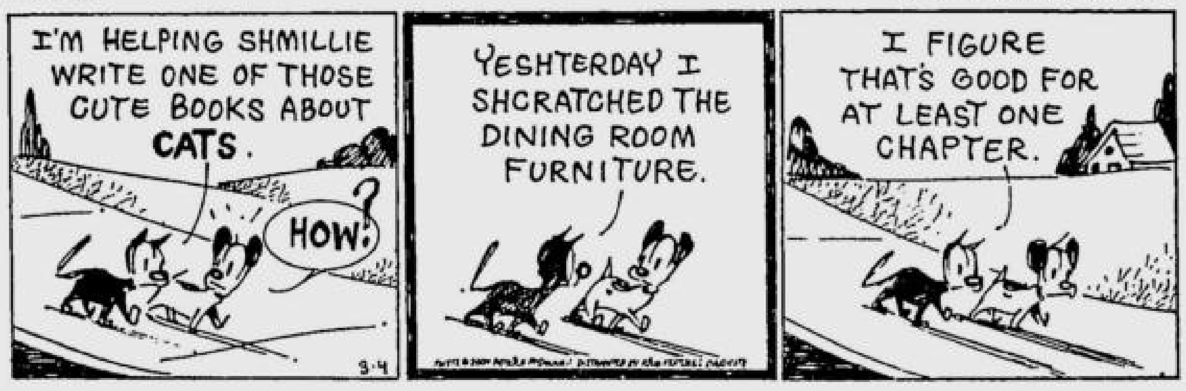
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


P-P-B-T-H-H-H-H! BLEAH!
WHO WOULD HAVE PUT A GLOB OF PLAY-DOH IN A CANDY WRAPPER, AND PUT IT BACK IN THE CANDY JAR??
WELL..?
WHICH TIME?

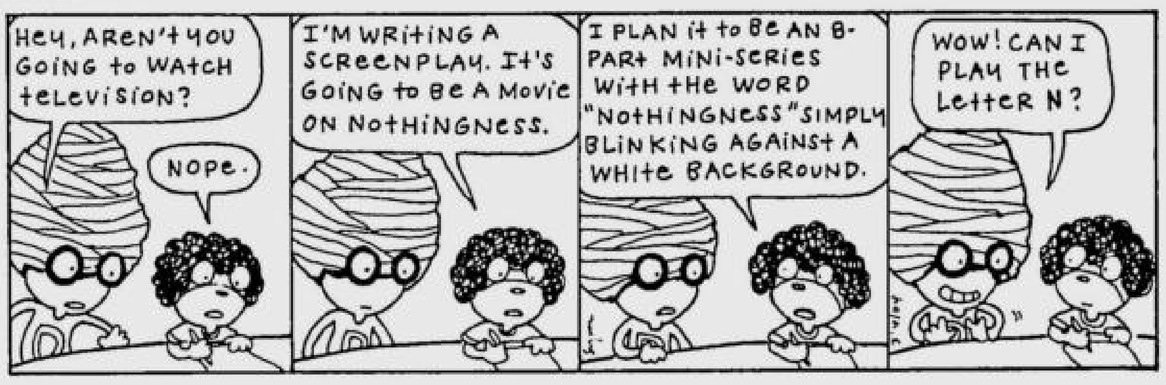
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M HELPING SHMILLIE WRITE ONE OF THOSE CUTE BOOKS ABOUT CATS.
HOW?
3-4
YESHTERDAY I SHCRATCHED THE DINING ROOM FURNITURE.
I FIGURE THAT'S GOOD FOR AT LEAST ONE CHAPTER.

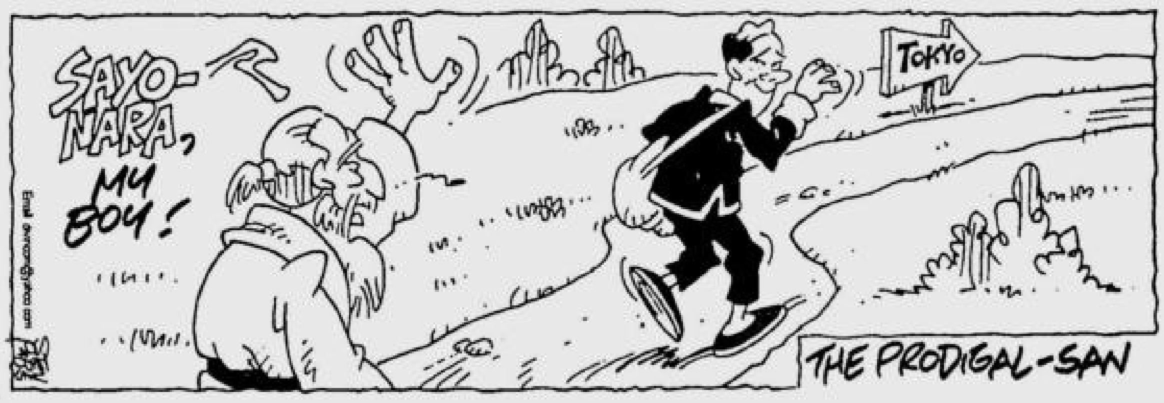
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, AREN'T you GOING to WATCH television?
NOPE.
I'M WRITING A SCREENPLAY. IT'S GOING to BE A Movie ON NOTHINGNESS.
I PLAN it to BE AN 8-PART MINI-SERIES WITH THE WORD "NOTHINGNESS" SIMPLY BLINKING AGAINST A WHITE BACKGROUND.
WOW! CAN I PLAY THE Letter N?

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SAYO-NARA, MY BOY!
TOKYO
THE PRODIGAL-SAN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are independent, self-motivated and very disciplined in a quiet way. You can isolate yourself from society in order to achieve your objectives. You have strong powers of concentration, plus patience. It's important to establish a few close relationships in your life. Work hard this year for rewards, which will soon follow.
Birthdate of: Knute Rockne, football coach; Patricia Heaton, actress; Catherine O'Hara, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Get ready to shop for some nice goodies for yourself or loved ones. At the same time, many of you have an opportunity to increase your earnings .

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): As Venus moves into your sign, you find it easy to be charming, diplomatic and friendly with everyone. This month is a great time to buy wardrobe items.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You will appreciate time spent alone to contemplate personal issues. You're a busy sign who multitasks constantly. You deserve some peace and quiet .

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your relations with friends and organizations improve enormously in the next few weeks. People are eager to see you. (You are more loved than you know.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's very easy for you to impress the boss right now. Your ambition is strong, and fortunately, tact and diplomacy are with you as well. (Great combo!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your appreciation of beauty is heightened now and for the month ahead. Give yourself an opportunity to appreciate nature, art and anything that appeals to your senses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's as if the universe owes you a favor! Expect gifts, goodies, bonuses and perks to come your way in the next six weeks. (Your partner might receive something that benefits you.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an excellent time to mend broken fences with close friends. You find it easy to understand where others are coming from now. Use this influence to your best advantage.

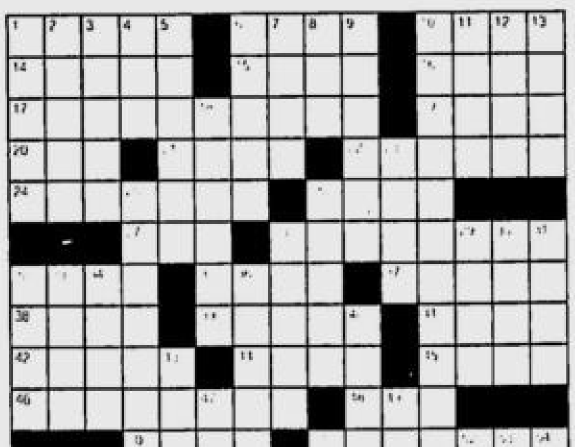
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Co-workers are unusually helpful now! You, in turn, are ready to help them. Any job is so much better when people are friendly and cooperative!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Sweet romance might bring an extra sizzle to your days. Flirtation, parties, fun vacations and good times are promising for the next six weeks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You'll be pleased with your efforts to make where you live look more attractive. Buy new things or rearrange what you have to get a more pleasing effect at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): In the next few weeks, you will discover just how much love there is in your daily life. Respond by telling others how much you care for them as well. Don't make them guess.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

3/4/04

ACROSS
1 Harshness
6 Basilica section
10 Hefty slice
14 Undermine
15 Plan to tighten one's belt?
16 Language subtlety
17 Dealer's line
19 Grown acorns
20 Pull the plug on
21 Overdo the saccharine
22 Milk choice
24 Paper hankies
26 "__ kleine Nachtmusik"
27 Potpie veggie
28 I beg your pardon
32 Train to box
35 Dispatched
37 Wander away
38 Caron film
39 Bring to bear
41 Jack up
42 Beside
44 Minor tender in India
45 Marsh grass
46 Ruffian
48 One of Pooh's pals
50 Brit's apartment
51 Avant-garde movement
55 Trails a baited hook
58 "__ of Arcadia"
59 Jacob's fifth son
60 Dodge Ram engine
61 ESPN offering
64 Middle Eastern port
65 Joule fractions
66 Pullman berth
67 Chinese secret society
68 Abie's Irish lass
69 Easy mark

DOWN
1 Return to defaults
2 Shiraz resident
3 Top Olympic medals
4 Praiseful poem
5 Save
6 So long in Cancun
7 Feel sorry for
8 Dry, as wine
9 Of a common cultural heritage
10 Hop, skip and a jump
11 Bread buy
12 "Puppy Love" singer
13 Top
18 Gladden
23 Cross to bear
25 Brief love affair
26 Over and above
28 Hostile forces
29 One of HOMES
30 Manufacture
31 Checked out
32 Happy starter?
33 Tablet
34 Moises of baseball
36 Put on a pedestal
40 Scare tactic
43 Seaside scavenger
47 Very funny joke
49 Comes clean
51 Vikinglike
52 Roll with the punches
53 Rose holders
54 Ingress
55 How about __!
56 Start again from scratch
57 Handwriting on the wall, e.g.
58 Nudges
62 Paid player
63 Figs. expert

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	M	P	■	P	R	A	M	S	■	H	E	L	P
O	R	A	L	■	R	O	G	E	T	■	I	R	A	E
S	T	R	I	K	E	Z	O	N	E	■	T	A	T	A
A	S	C	E	N	T	■	■	D	E	A	R	S	I	R
■	■	■	D	O	Z	E	S	■	P	R	E	E	N	S
S	P	Y	■	B	E	L	A	■	S	F	C	■	■	■
L	O	O	P	■	L	I	D	S	■	N	O	T	S	O
A	N	G	U	S	■	A	N	T	■	T	R	O	O	P
M	E	A	N	T	■	S	E	R	F	■	D	O	M	E
■	■	■	C	O	T	■	S	E	R	B	■	T	E	N
A	U	T	H	O	R	■	S	W	I	L	L	■	■	■
S	T	A	L	L	E	D	■	■	S	E	A	S	O	N
K	I	R	I	■	B	E	L	T	B	U	C	K	L	E
E	C	O	N	■	L	A	I	N	E	■	K	I	L	O
D	A	T	E	■	E	L	I	T	E	■	S	P	A	N

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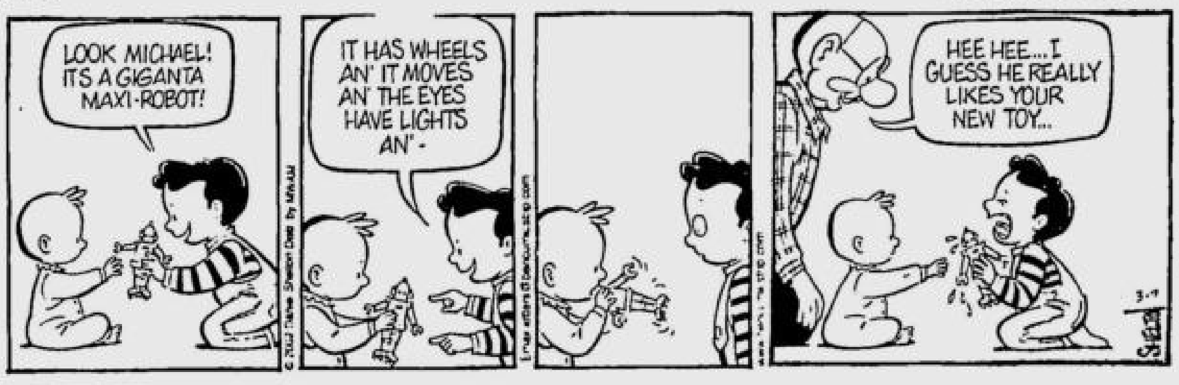
3/4/04

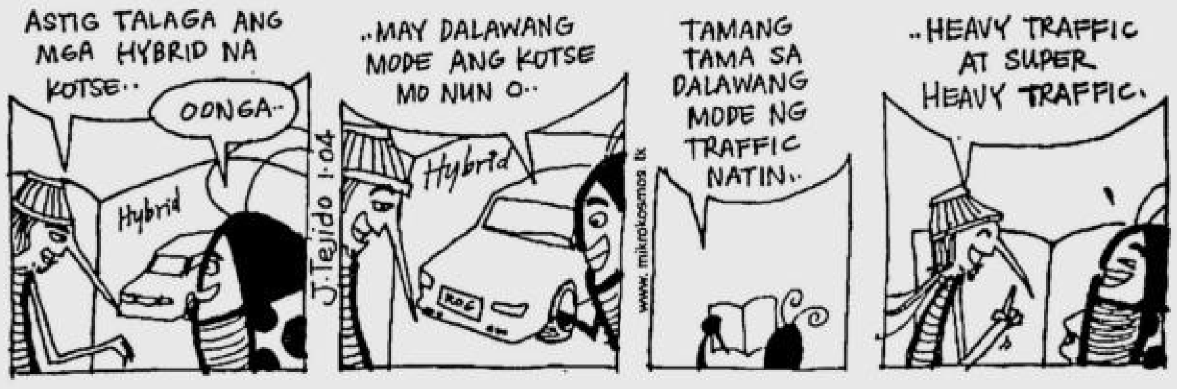
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LOOK MICHAEL! ITS A GIGANTA MAXI-ROBOT!
IT HAS WHEELS AN' IT MOVES AN' THE EYES HAVE LIGHTS AN'-
HEE HEE...I GUESS HE REALLY LIKES YOUR NEW TOY...
3-4

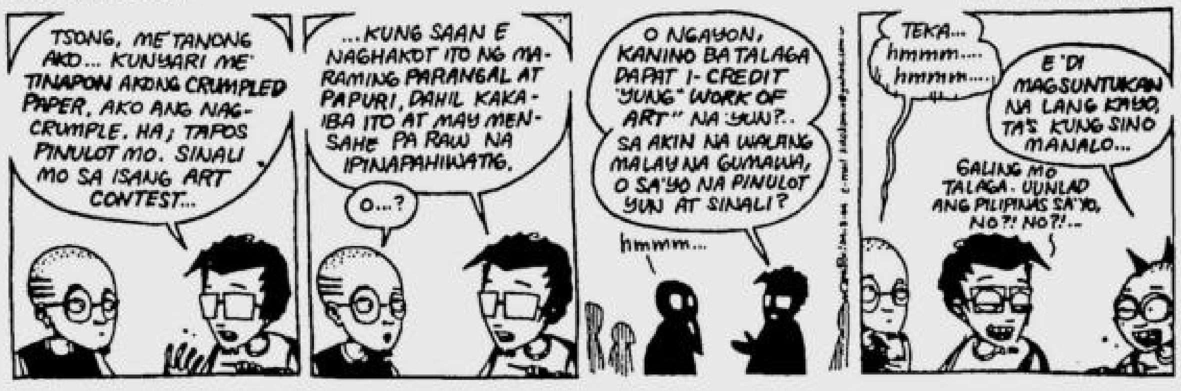
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ASTIG TALAGA ANG MGA HYBRID NA KOTSE..
OONGA..
Hybrid
..MAY DALAWANG MODE ANG KOTSE MO NUN O..
J.Tejido 1-04
Hybrid
TAMANG TAMA SA DALAWANG MODE NG TRAFFIC NATIN..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..HEAVY TRAFFIC AT SUPER HEAVY TRAFFIC.

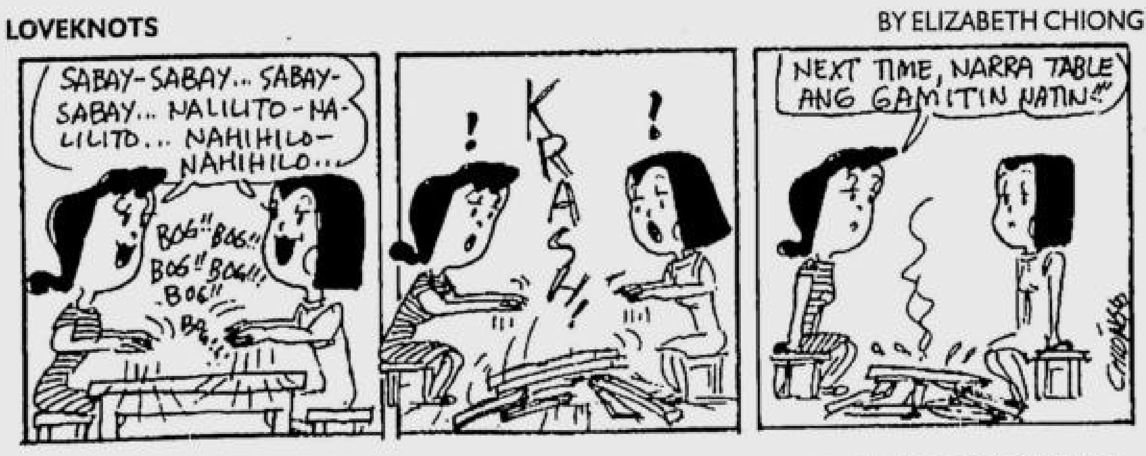
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, ME TANONG AKO... KUNYARI ME TINAPON AKONG CRUMPLED PAPER, AKO ANG NAG-CRUMPLE. HA; TAPOS PINULOT MO. SINALI MO SA ISANG ART CONTEST...
...KUNG SAAN E NAGHAKOT ITO NG MARAMING PARANGAL AT PAPURI, DAHIL KAKAIBA ITO AT MAY MENSAHE PA RAW NA IPINAPAHIWATIG.
O...?
O NGAYON, KANINO BA TALAGA DAPAT I-CREDIT 'YUNG "WORK OF ART" NA 'YUN?.. SA AKIN NA WALANG MALAY NA GUMAWA, O SA'YO NA PINULOT YUN AT SINALI?
hmmm...
TEKA... hmmm.... hmmm....
E 'DI MAGSUNTUKAN NA LANG KAYO, TA'S KUNG SINO MANALO...
GALING MO TALAGA. UUNLAD ANG PILIPINAS SA'YO, NO?! NO?!..

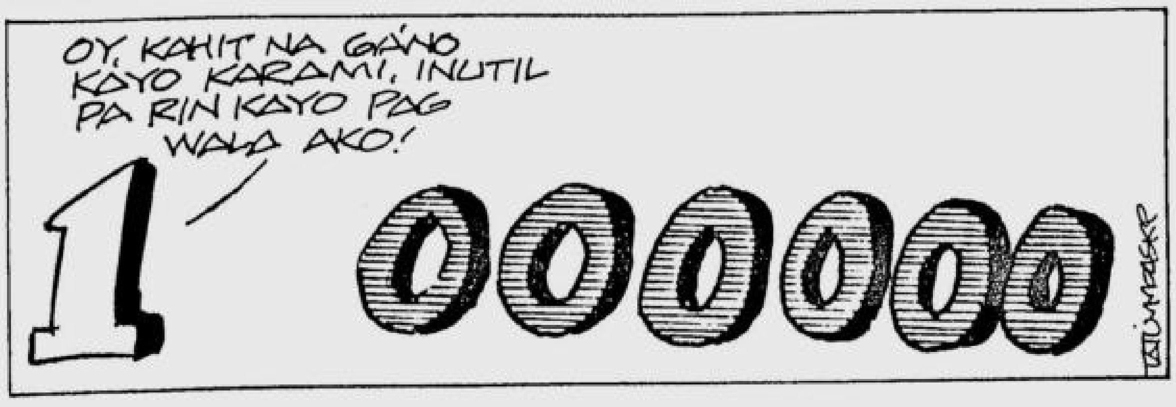
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SABAY-SABAY... SABAY-SABAY... NALILITO-NALILITO... NAHIHILO-NAHIHILO...
BOG!! BOG!! BOG!! BOG!! BOG!! BA
!
KRASH!
!
NEXT TIME, NARRA TABLE ANG GAMITIN NATIN!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, KAHIT NA GAANO KAYO KARAMI, INUTIL PA RIN KAYO PAG WALA AKO!
1
000000

Keeping the faith in True Faith

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

AS A devout follower of True Faith, I am ecstatic about the release of their 10th album, "Eto Hits….Acoustic."

After being featured in most, if not all local acoustic albums, True Faith finally takes credit for all the songs that have helped these acoustic albums bust the charts. Why settle for just one or two of True Faith's hits when you can have them all in one package?

"Eto Hits…Acoustic" is all of 12 tracks, 10 of which are the biggest hits of True Faith. The other two songs are the band's favorite, which they interpret in their standard acoustic set-up. Among the original songs are "Perfect" (in its 1992 unplugged version), the silently sincere "Huwag Nalang Kaya," "Hi," "Basta Ngumiti Ka Lang" (my national anthem!) and the movie theme "Muntik Nang Maabot ang Langit."

The first single of "Eto Hits…Acoustic" is the Culture Club cover "Mistake Number Three." Organic, subdued, and tight, True Faith's rendition of song is currently number one in radio charts. A guaranteed hit, True Faith translated this '80s hit into a cozy, intimate song. This also explains why the band is truly the acoustic champ.

A cool cover of a Johnny Hates Jazz song, "Different Seasons," is also in the album.

Medwin Marfil, the band's vocalist, says, "It was our former bandmate **Francis Guevarra**, who suggested that we come up with the compilation. We included **Boy George's** song because beyond his gender bending he really made great music with the Culture Club. It serves as our ode to a music era that we learned much from and grew up with!"

"Eto Hits…Acoustic" is on repeat mode in my CD player. Check it out and find out why. To hear is to believe and to have true faith.

Soap singers

SPEAK of remarkable contemporary Original Pilipino Music and the names of **Ogie Alcasid** and **Aiza Seguerra** will come to mind.

In the last decade, Ogie has established himself as one the country's most respected singer/songwriters, with his simple yet evocative lyrics and melodies.

Aiza has transformed herself from everybody's favorite child star in "Eat Bulaga" into a certified hitmaker with her album debut "Pagdating ng Panahon."

Having conquered the music world, the two will now tackle the challenge of primetime drama. Both are in the cast of GMA 7's new soap series, "Hanggang Kailan."

The duo will provide a musical dimension to the soap that would set it apart from other dramas.

In the soap, Aiza plays Gina, the rebel child. She delivers a shining performance as the protective sister of Lito, played by **Janus del Prado**, when they confront their cruel stepfather in the series.

Clearly, the years have brought depth and emotion to Aiza's performance rarely seen in a young actress.

Ogie is George, the friend of Dado (played by **Boyet de Leon**). George also operates "Tambucks," the stylized bar cum cafe where "Hanggang Kailan's" teens hang out.

Ogie has proved his worth as a singer/songwriter, comedian ("Bubble Gang") and as a host (in "S.O.P."). He's not one who would sit on his laurels and be lulled into a false sense of complacency. So now he's venturing into drama.

"At first I was quite apprehensive to accept the offer but **Bibeth Orteza** (one of the show's writers) told me I could pull it off. Besides, I fell in love with the role because I play a frustrated songwriter," Ogie reveals.

In real life, Ogie also had his share of disappointments with his music.

"When rap and alternative music came about, my music was heard. I questioned my talent, but I still kept trying. It was only after 'Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw's' release and the resurfacing of 'Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?' when I gained back my confidence."

Ogie considers it an honor to be working with multi-awarded performers like **Lorna Tolentino** and Christopher de Leon.

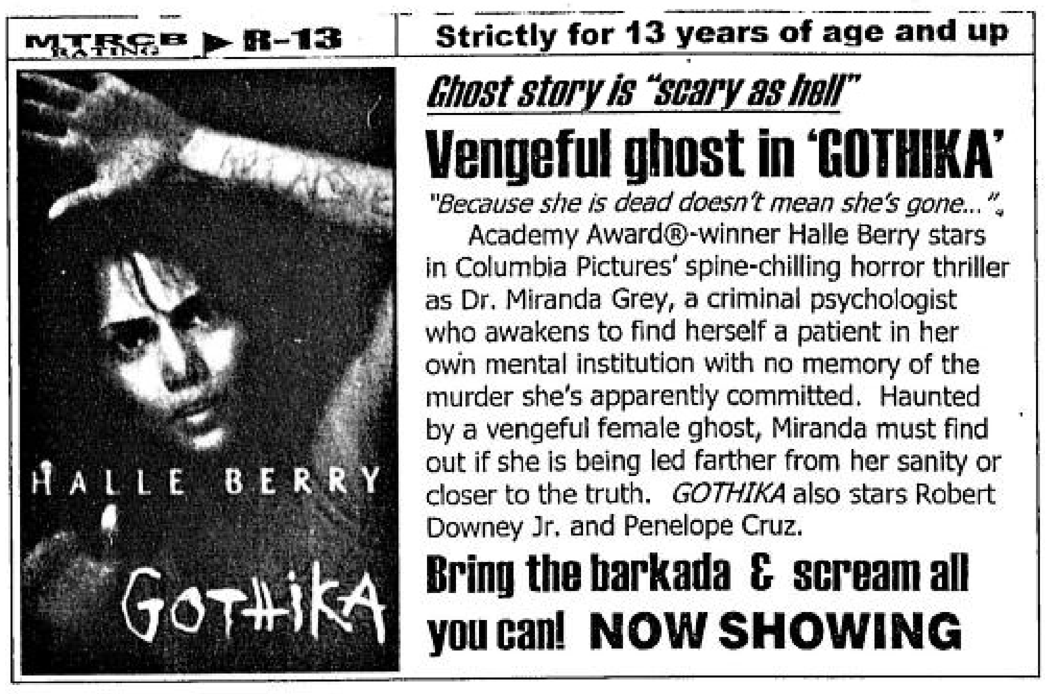
"It's my attempt to prove to myself that I can be called an actor, too," he quips.

I teased Ogie, "My! You're much too talented. What can't you do? Are bold movies next in line to show why naughty minds call you Bukol King?"

He chuckled: "Not to *that extent* naman! I just love my work and I believe that as an artist, I should be open to new things. I enjoy the challenge!"

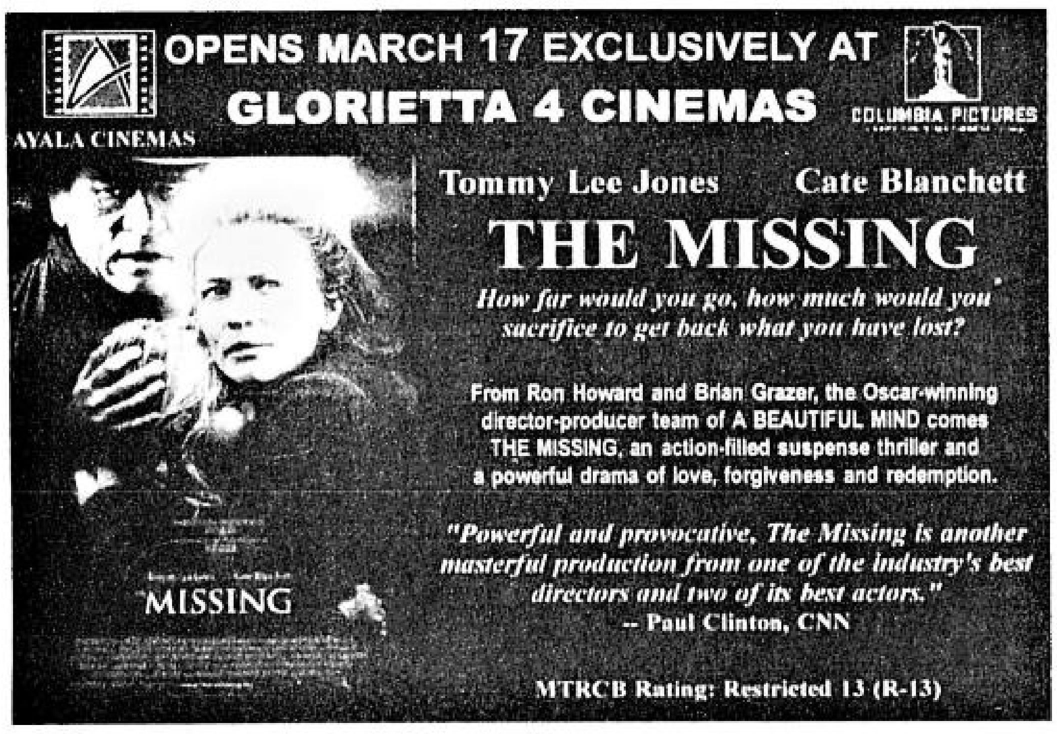
Creators of "Hanggang Kailan" have carefully woven music into the narrative. As the season unfolds, more than 30 of Ogie Alcasid's original songs will be showcased.

The soap also topbills **Alice Dixon**. It stars **Alessandra de Rossi, Maxine Magalona, Boy2 Quizon, Jake Cuenca** and **Nancy Castiglione**.



MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 Strictly for 13 years of age and up
Ghost story is "scary as hell"
Vengeful ghost in 'GOTHIKA'
"Because she is dead doesn't mean she's gone…"
Academy Award®-winner Halle Berry stars in Columbia Pictures' spine-chilling horror thriller as Dr. Miranda Grey, a criminal psychologist who awakens to find herself a patient in her own mental institution with no memory of the murder she's apparently committed. Haunted by a vengeful female ghost, Miranda must find out if she is being led farther from her sanity or closer to the truth. *GOTHIKA* also stars Robert Downey Jr. and Penelope Cruz.
Bring the barkada & scream all you can! NOW SHOWING

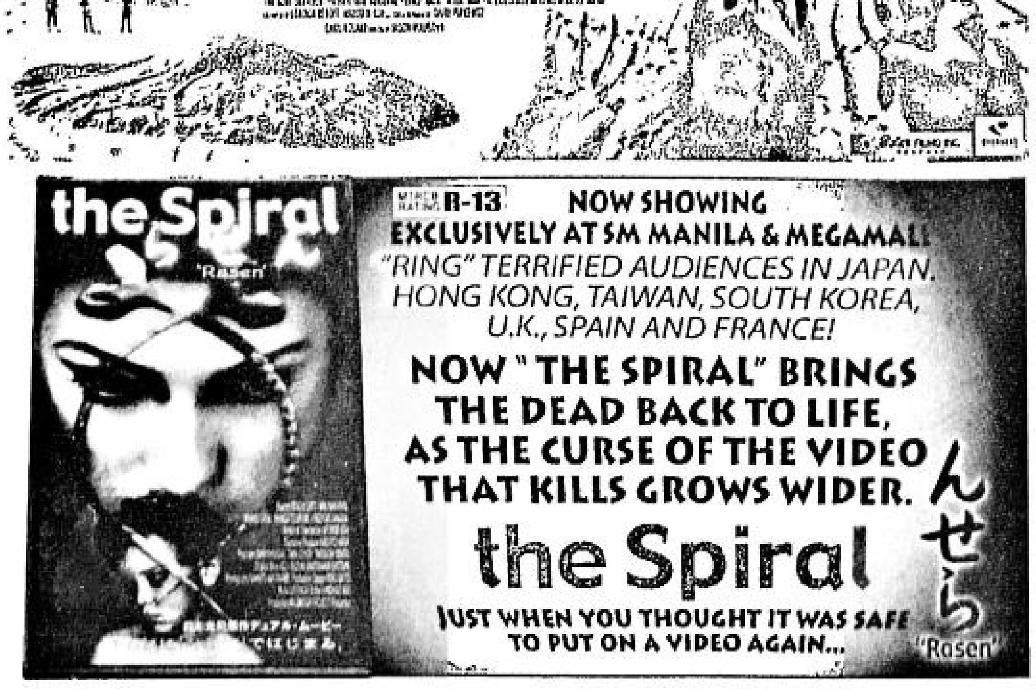
Every Glorietta 4 & Greenbelt 3 movie ticket that you buy instantly gives you more!
YOU GET:
2 FREE TIMEZONE GAMES for a minimum P20 load (yellow swipers only)
A FREE GIFT FROM FOOD CHOICES for a single minimum purchase of P120
AYALA CINEMAS Food Choices TIMEZONE



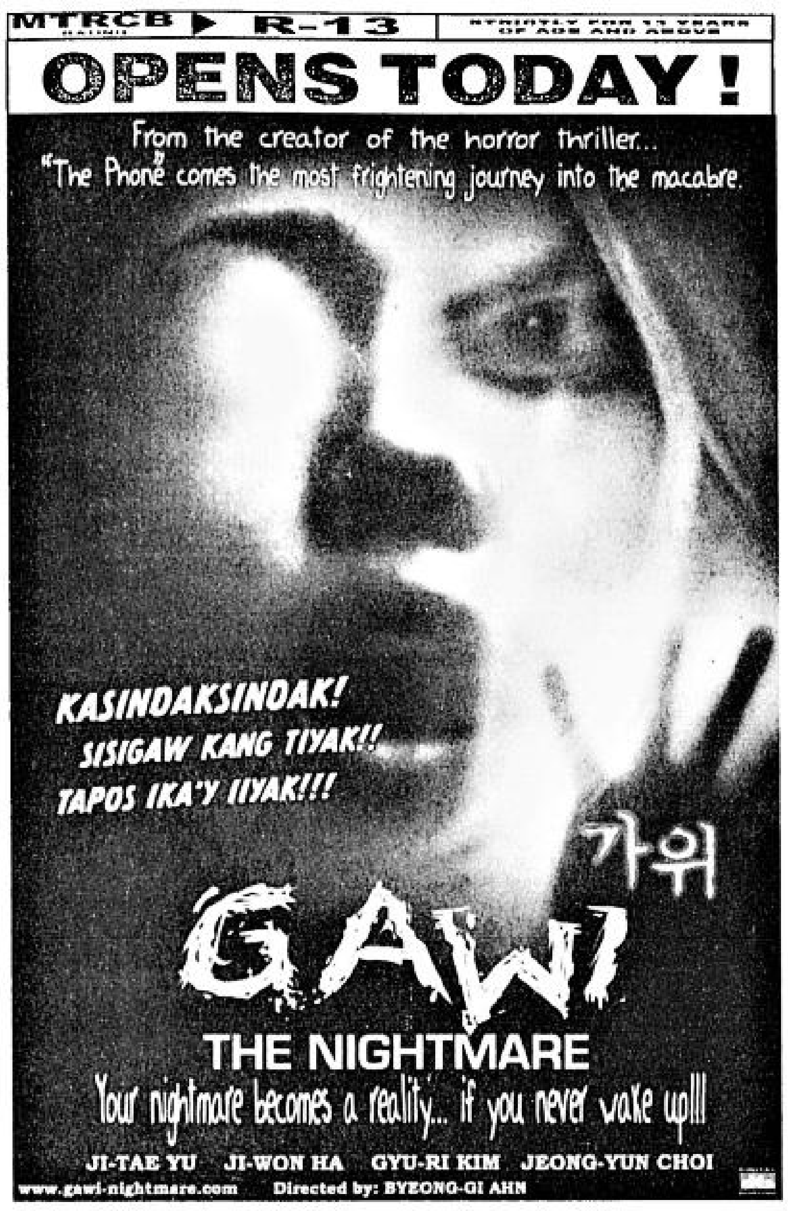
OPENS MARCH 17 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
AYALA CINEMAS COLUMBIA PICTURES
Tommy Lee Jones Cate Blanchett
THE MISSING
How far would you go, how much would you sacrifice to get back what you have lost?
From Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, the Oscar-winning director-producer team of A BEAUTIFUL MIND comes THE MISSING, an action-filled suspense thriller and a powerful drama of love, forgiveness and redemption.
"Powerful and provocative, The Missing is another masterful production from one of the industry's best directors and two of its best actors." -- Paul Clinton, CNN
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
MISSING

AYALA MALLS
Presents
Beauty and the Beast
AVON
AYALA CENTER
Feb. 20 - 5pm, 7pm
Feb. 21 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Feb. 22 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm
ALABANG TOWN
Feb. 27 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb. 28 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb. 29 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Mar. 5 - 4pm, 7:30pm
Mar. 6 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Mar. 7 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6:30pm

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
3RD TERRIFYING HIT WEEK!
SAGAD SA BUTO… MABABALATAN KA SA TAKOT!
THE BONE SNATCHER



MTRCB RATING R-13 NOW SHOWING
EXCLUSIVELY AT SM MANILA & MEGAMALL
"RING" TERRIFIED AUDIENCES IN JAPAN, HONG KONG, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA, U.K., SPAIN AND FRANCE!
NOW "THE SPIRAL" BRINGS THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE, AS THE CURSE OF THE VIDEO THAT KILLS GROWS WIDER.
the Spiral
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO PUT ON A VIDEO AGAIN…
らせん 'Rasen'

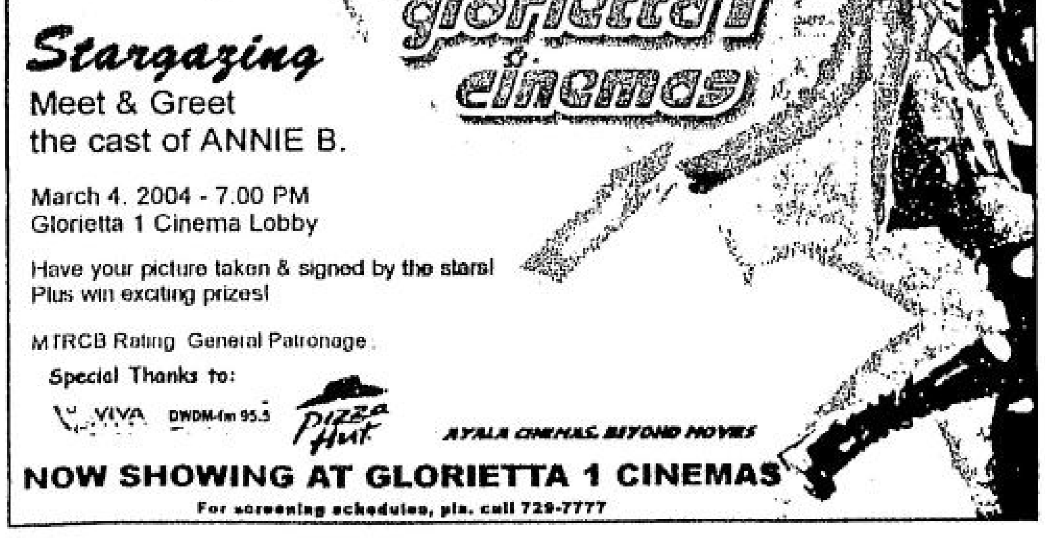


MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
OPENS TODAY!
From the creator of the horror thriller… "The Phone" comes the most frightening journey into the macabre.
KASINDAKSINDAK! SISIGAW KANG TIYAK!! TAPOS IKA'Y IIYAK!!!
가위 GAWI THE NIGHTMARE
Your nightmare becomes a reality… if you never wake up!!
JI-TAE YU JI-WON HA GYU-RI KIM JEONG-YUN CHOI
www.gawi-nightmare.com Directed by: BYEONG-GI AHN

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 GOTHIKA 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00 R13
CINEMA 2 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:30 R13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
MUSIC MUSEUM
MAR 5,6,12,13 "MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL" 8:00PM
MAR 17 & 18 "WILLIE NEP 4 PRESIDENT" 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
For inquiries, call: 687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 11:03, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50 R-13
2 TORQUE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20 5:30, 10:40, 9:50 PG-13
3 GOTHIKA 11:15, 1:30, 3:50 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 R-13
4 DUPLEX 11:45, 1:45, 3:45 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
LOST IN TRANSLATION PG13 12:45, 2.55, 5.05, 7.15, 9.25
DUPLEX PG13 12:00, 2:00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10:00
TORQUE PG13 1:25, 3.35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:20
GOTHIKA R13 1:20, 3.40, 6.00, 8:20 10:30
MYSTIC RIVER R13 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE R13 12:10, 2.40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.



annie B goes to glorietta 1 cinemas
AYALA CINEMAS
Stargazing
Meet & Greet the cast of ANNIE B.
March 4, 2004 - 7.00 PM
Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
Have your picture taken & signed by the stars! Plus win exciting prizes!
MTRCB Rating General Patronage
Special Thanks to: VIVA DWDM-fm 95.5 Pizza Hut
AYALA CINEMAS. BEYOND MOVIES
NOW SHOWING AT GLORIETTA 1 CINEMAS
For screening schedules, pls. call 729-7777

Star in a Million, the album

THE TALENTS of "Star in a Million" champion Erik Santos and the other finalists are immortalized in this compilation from Star Records. Tracks include "Say That You Love Me," by Christian Bautista, "I Can't Tell You Why" by Gayle Dizon, "In My Life" by Michell San Miguel, "Come In Out Of The Rain" by Sheryn Mae Regis, "You" by Johann Escañan. Also included are "If I Didn't Love You" by Czarina Rosales, "Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin" by Marinel Santos, "Run To You" by DK Tijam, "I Love You Goodbye" by Teresa Garcia and "I Believe I Can Fly" by Erik Santos. The "Star In A Million" theme is performed by all the finalists in the CD, which contains a free music video of all the songs.

Diana's DeZire

JAG Jeans presents "DeZire: The Diana Zubiri Videoke Collection," available in record bars and video stores nationwide under BMG Records Pilipinas.

This collection comes in four volumes priced at P180 each. Diana's timeless and endearing beauty is captured by the lens of Raymond Isaac, making every seen shot against the beaches of Palawan a visual delight.

"I am extremely flattered to be given a chance to have my own videoke collection," says Diana.

"DeZire" will again raise the quality of videoke materials in the country with its concept and production values, with BMG making sure that the collection conforms to international standards from the locations to photography to the direction.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	CLOSED
Ali 2	CLOSED
Ali 3	ANNIE B.
Ali 4	GOTHIKA
Ali 5	TORQUE
Ali 6	DRAGON VS. NINJA
Ali 7	WATER DEMON

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
NOW OPEN 4 PM to 10 PM daily

ARANETA COLISEUM

MAR 6	BB. PILIPINAS CORONATION NIGHT
MAR 7	PBA: STA LUCIA VS. COKE
MAR 10	PBA: REDBULL VS. SHELL
MAR 12	SONG BIRD & SONG WRITER REPEAT
MAR 13	PBA: PUREFOODS VS. STA. LUCIA
MAR 14	PBA: GINEBRA VS. COKE
MAR 16	NCA 7-COCK DEBY

FOR TICKETS, CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MAPUSOK / HAPDI
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ANNIE B.
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUYA
CINEMA-2	U-BELT
CINEMA-3	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DUPLEX
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	WATER DEMON
CINEMA-6	GHOST HOUSE
CINEMA-7	TUKAAN
CINEMA-8	HAUNTED MANSION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TORQUE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GOTHIKA
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SOMETHINGS GOTTA GIVE
CINEMA-12	DRAGON VS NINJA
CINEMA-14	ANNIE B
CINEMA-15	MILAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	CHASING LIBERTY
CINEMA-1	ANNIE B
CINEMA-2	KUYA
CINEMA-4	[illegible]

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

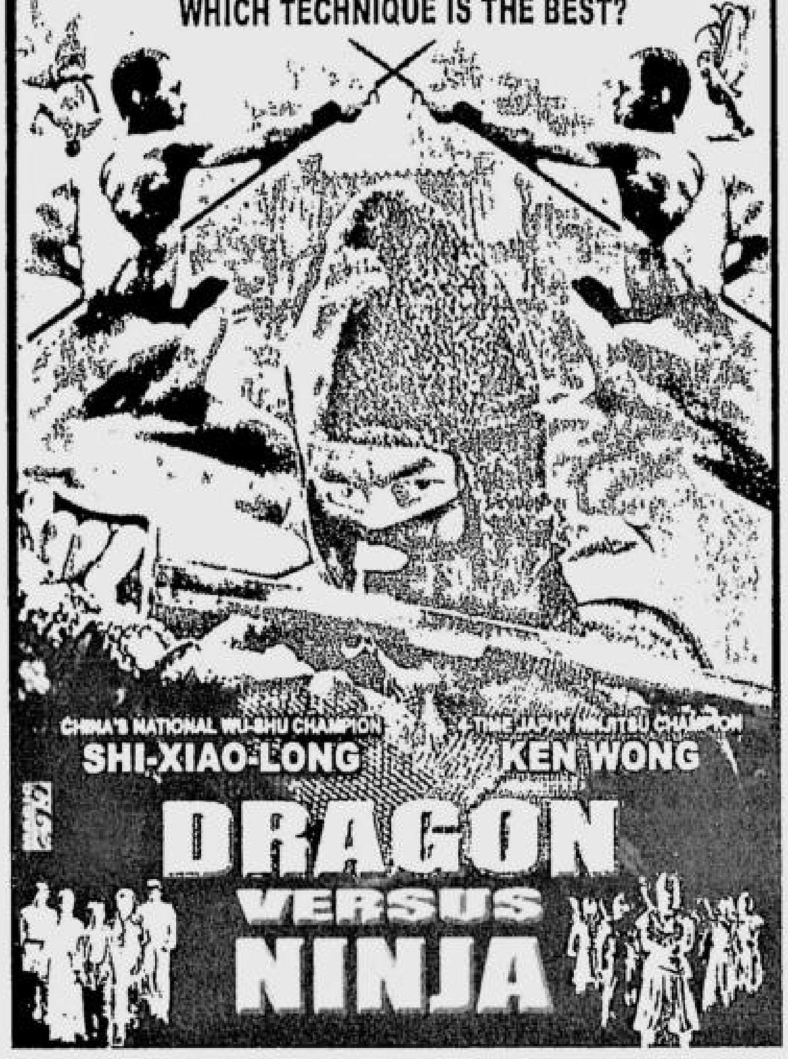
NOW SHOWING

HANEP SA ACTION... WALANG CAMERA TRICKS.
LABANAN NG MGA MATATAPANG... KAKASA KA BA?

From YUEN WO-PING the action director of THE MATRIX.

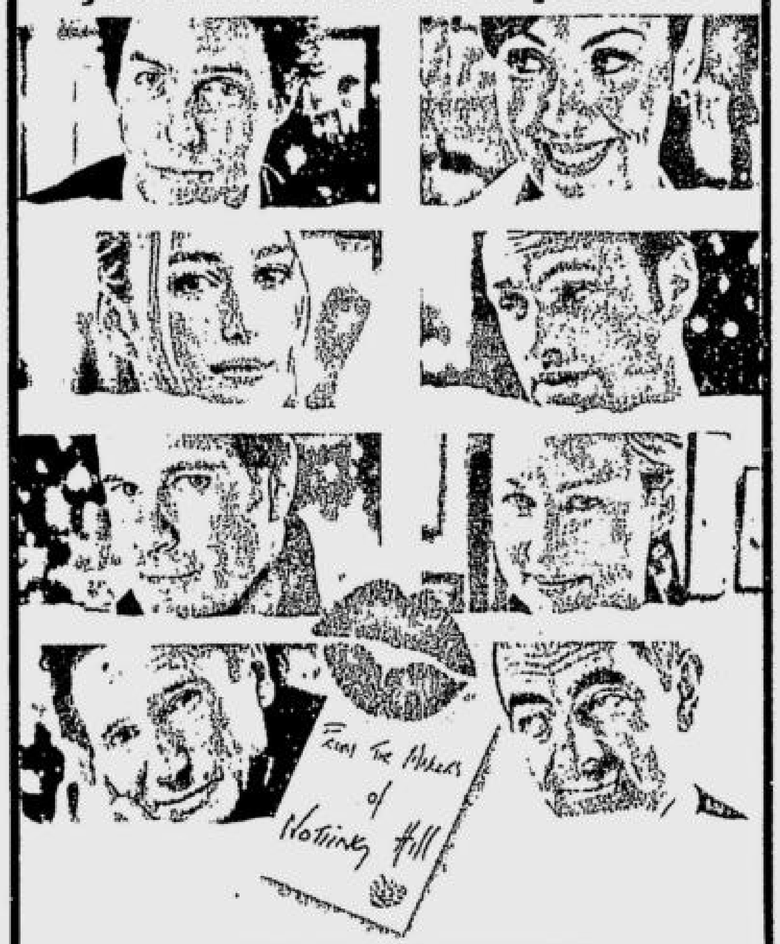
SHAOLIN KUNG FU ORIGINATED IN 3RD CENTURY CHINA. ★ NINJITSU ORIGINATED IN 9TH CENTURY JAPAN.

WHICH TECHNIQUE IS THE BEST?


CHINA'S NATIONAL WU-SHU CHAMPION
SHI-XIAO-LONG
TIME JAPAN NINJITSU CHAMPION
KEN WONG
DRAGON
VERSUS
NINJA

OPENS MARCH 10 !

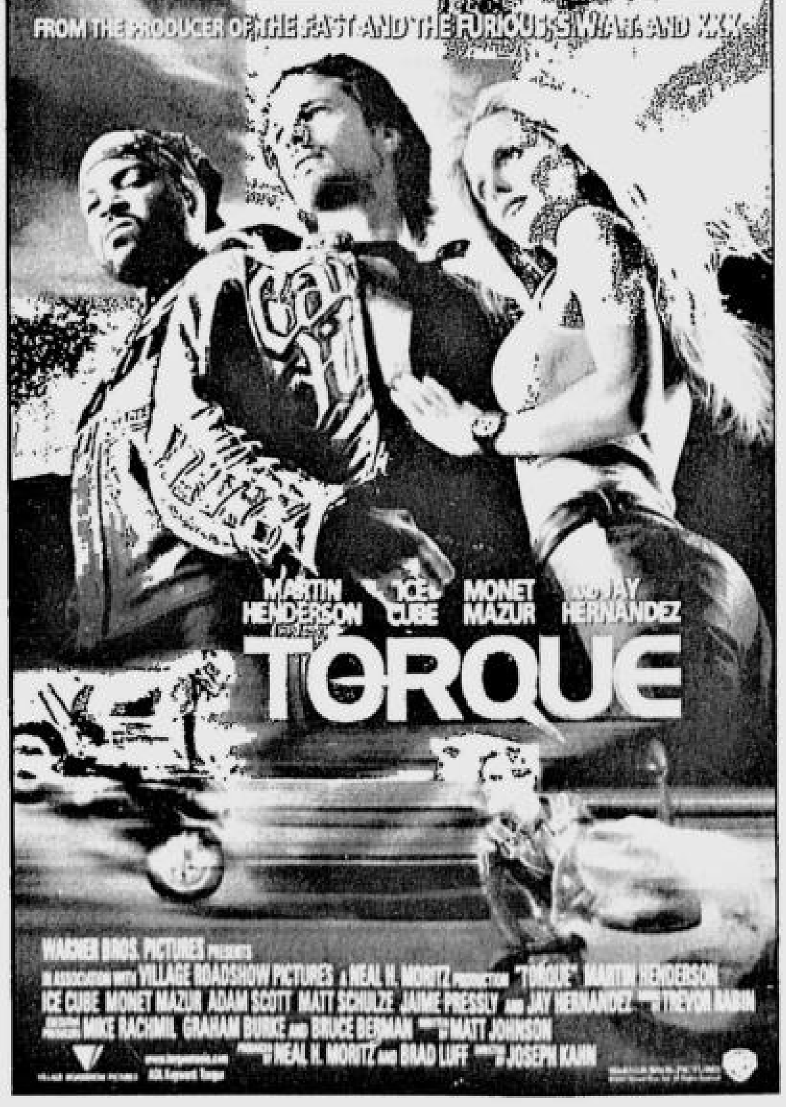
Somewhere in this movie, you'll find the love of your life.


From the Makers of Notting Hill

THE ULTIMATE ROMANTIC COMEDY
loveactually
Very romantic. Very comedy.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


FROM THE PRODUCER OF THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS, S.W.A.T. AND XXX
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MONET MAZUR
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IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A NEAL H. MORITZ PRODUCTION "TORQUE" MARTIN HENDERSON
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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA
632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

Cinema	Movie	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE	10:40, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45
2	ANNIE B.	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 DOLBY DIGITAL
3	GOTHIKA	10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40 DTS
4	DUPLEX	11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
5	TORQUE	10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
6	LOST IN TRANSLATION	12:30, 2:35, 4:40 SDDS
7	GAWI: THE NIGHTMARE	12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:40, 9:00
8	COLD MOUNTAIN	12:10, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
9	MILAN	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
10	DRAGON VS. NINJA	12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA
526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

DOLBY DIGITAL EX

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	TORQUE	11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:40
2	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3	MILAN	11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
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7	GOTHIKA	10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40 DTS

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	DUPLEX	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2	GOTHIKA	10:45, 1:20, 3:55, 6:30, 9:05 SDDS
3	TORQUE	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
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8	ANNIE B.	10:30, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	TORQUE	11:25, 1:55, 3:05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35
2	DUPLEX	11:20, 1:10, 3:00, 4:50, 6:40, 8:30
3	ANNIE B.	11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
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8	GAWI: THE NIGHTMARE	11:40, 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:10

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

Cinema	Movie
1	TORQUE
2	DRAGON VS. NINJA
3	ANNIE B.
4	GOTHIKA

big Supercenter CAINTA
240-4661

Cinema	Movie
1	TORQUE
2	MILAN
3	ANNIE B.
4	GOTHIKA

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA
Laguna (049)837-0907

Cinema	Movie
1	MILAN
2	GOTHIKA
3	ANNIE B.
4	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
5	GHOST HOUSE

Big R Supercenter LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

Cinema	Movie
1	COLD MOUNTAIN
2	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
3	U-BELT
4	MILAN
5	ANNIE B.

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS
852-2125

Cinema	Movie
1	ANNIE B.
2	GHOST HOUSE
3	U-BELT
4	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
5	MILAN

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS
San Fernando Pampanga
875-1927 / 961-5270

Cinema	Movie
1	RUNAWAY JURY
2	LOST IN TRANSLATION
3	MILAN
4	ANNIE B.
5	DUPLEX
6	GOTHIKA

THX STANDARD

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471-8188 / 875-5858

Cinema	Movie
1	TORQUE
2	DRAGON VS. NINJA
3	ANNIE B.
4 DTS	GOTHIKA
5	MILAN
6	WATER DEMON

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

Cinema	Movie
1	DUPLEX
2	HAUNTED MANSION
3	MILAN
4	COLD MOUNTAIN
5	IN THE CUT
6	CHASING LIBERTY

ILOILO
336-8070/78

Cinema	Movie
1	HAUNTED MANSION
2	CHASING LIBERTY
3	COLD MOUNTAIN
4	WRONG TURN
5	U-BELT
6	MAGIC KITCHEN

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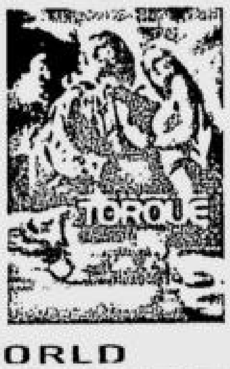

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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD Cinema Lobby

Ermita 1:00 PM
Galleria 4:30 PM

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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

GARCIA, with Poe and comedy king Dolphy in Legazpi City. Poe had to attend to a "personal emergency" and failed to show up at the campaign rally in Sorsogon City. EDWIN BACASMAS

SORSOGON RALLY

Manoy takes up cudgels for 'Da King'

SORSOGON CITY—In the absence of 'Da King,' Manoy comes to the rescue.

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"Many are asking me: 'Ronnie, why did you enter politics when it is very dirty?' I told them 'I'll enter even the eye of a needle just for you'," Poe said in the speech that Garcia had read.

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Fiesta atmosphere

The scene of the campaign rally resembled a fiesta, with banners and posters hanging everywhere, and vendors roaming around.

The sounds of ice cream bells mixed with the voices of the crowd that had been waiting and squeezing for space to see Poe since early in the afternoon.

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"I will not vote for FPJ, I'm for Roco," she said. *Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SHOWING TOMORROW!
at Pelikula at Lipunan SM BAGUIO

GREENLIGHTS
A highly acclaimed comedy by Robert H. Lieberman!

VARIETY SAYS:
"...Spectacularly funny, a delightful romp!
...Invokes Capra in its big-hearted treatment of characters and its ability to mix pathos with laughter.
...Berman suggests a modern-day "Music Man," come to sprinkle a little magic over a town."
GREENLIGHTS

ALSO SHOWING TOMORROW

4pm
EDADES
The new digital docudrama
by NICK DEOCAMPO

9pm
ASTIG
starring ROBIN PADILLA
directed by
JON RED

TOMORROW ONLY
AT 6:30PM
SM Baguio!

COMPLETE PROGRAM FOR BAGUIO

	11am	1:30pm	4pm	6:30pm	9pm
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MARCH 6 saturday	VALUES ORIENTED SHORTS	GAY and LESBIAN WORKS by Various Directors	PERFUMED NIGHTMARE by Kidlat tahimik	ZAMBOANGA by Eduardo de Castro	AMORRES PERROS by Alejandro Iñarritu

Total unknowns get crack at stardom

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Studdard won the top plum, but Aiken has also become a singing star and successful recording artist. That's why this year's new batch of finalists is prepared to put up with anything and everything to get their share of the goodies.

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From the looks of it, this season's finalists are even more gifted than Studdard's batch mates. They have obviously learned a lot from viewing last year's edition, and have gone into the rigorous search with greater preparation.

So, after the entire search process shall have been completed, we can expect not just the top two survivors but also a number of the also-rans to make it in US show biz. Let's hope that they include Fil-Am looker **Camile Velasco** in their exclusive company.

Not surprisingly, the success of "American Idol" has spawned a number of local counterparts—"Star in A Million," "Search for A Star," "Starstruck" and "Star Circle Quest," which debuted only last Monday.

The local talent search shows' most successful discovery to date has been **Sarah Geronimo**, whose show biz career has been launched with a hit album, popular live performances, a couple of movie roles, and now, a TV drama series of her own.

The four "Starstruck" survivors have also clicked with show biz fans. Other programs' "discoveries" have yet to really make it, however. Still, the success stories have motivated producers to come up with new search gambits, like Star Circle's belated "Quest."

FIL-AM looker Camile Velasco might be the next American Idol.

Star Circle's search may be a delayed response to "Starstruck," but it does that show one better by discovering not just teen talents, but child performers as well. For its part, "Starstruck's" second season is focusing exclusively on child talents.

This is all to the good because it's been quite a while since we've had a child superstar on the local show biz scene. Let's hope that "Star Circle Quest" and "Starstruck" discover the next **Niño Muhlach** and **Aiza Seguerra.**

But they should handle their juvenile contestants much more gently than "Starstruck" dealt with its teen finalists last year. To make sure of this, the two programs should get child psychologists as consultants.

OnQ Band

BAGUIO City's best-kept secret, the OnQ Band, will be heard in Manila at Merk's Bar Bistro at Greenbelt 3 on March 4. Call 757-4720.

OnQ band members are **Mario Colomo, Pia Santayana-Trinidad, Ike Reynoso, Jonnie Abubo** and **Egay Buning.**

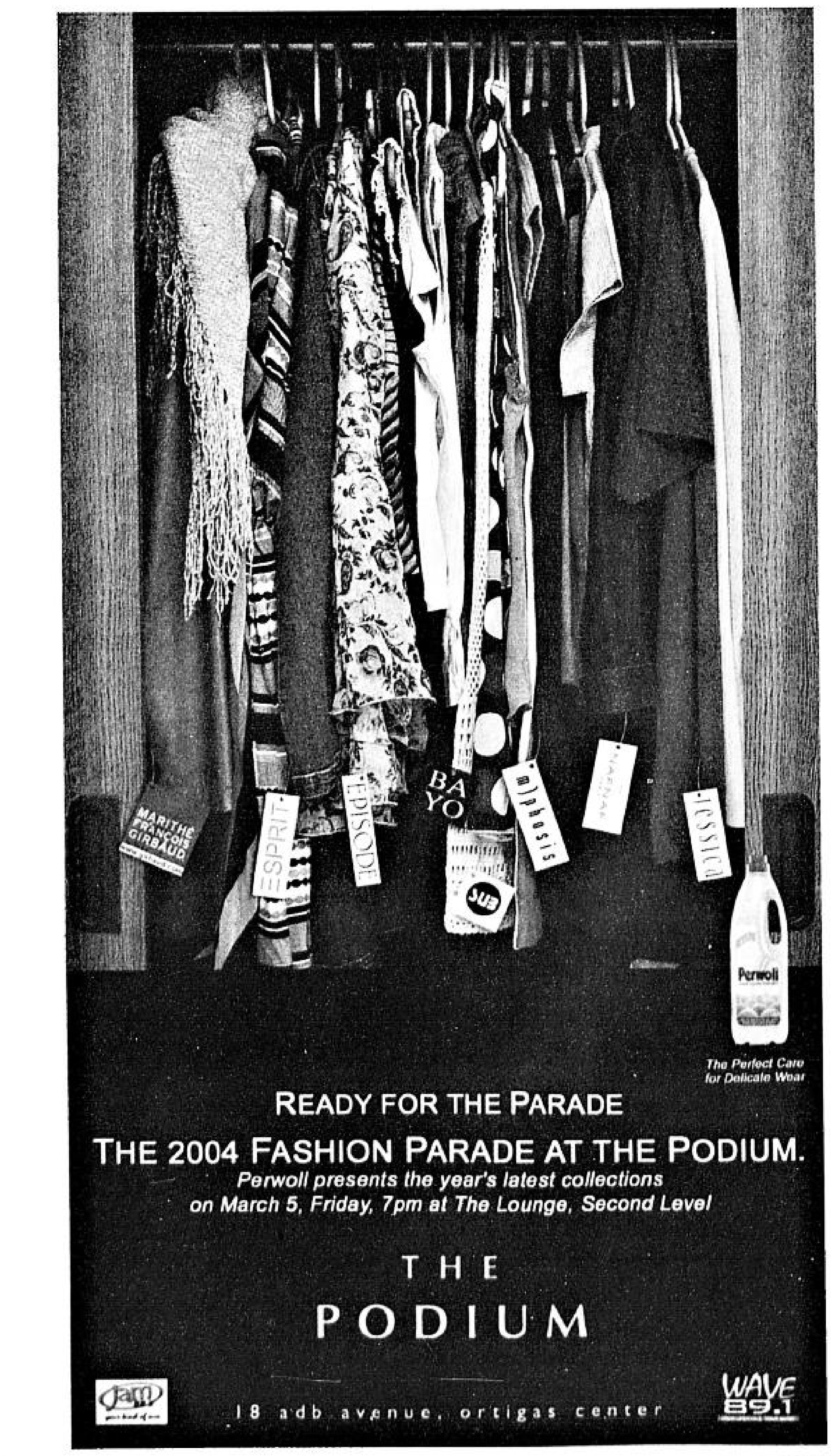
'Tribal Week'

ONGOING until March 5 on Discovery Channel is "Tribal Week," a special programming event that introduces viewers to cultures in which medicine men and ancestral spirits still hold sway.

Featured programs include "The Witchdoctor's New Bride," "Planes, Pigs and the Price of Brides" and "Ghosts of the Killing Fields."

The documentaries show that there are remote villages in distant parts of the globe that have remained virtually untouched by the influences of the modern world.

Computers, TV sets and other devices that many people can't live without are alien objects to peoples such as the Melenit of Western Ethiopia and the Migani of Irian Jaya. But the great discovery is, some of the age-old tribal practices are still effective to this day!



The Perfect Care for Delicate Wear

READY FOR THE PARADE

THE 2004 FASHION PARADE AT THE PODIUM.

Perwoll presents the year's latest collections on March 5, Friday, 7pm at The Lounge, Second Level

THE PODIUM

18 adb avenue, ortigas center

WAVE 89.1

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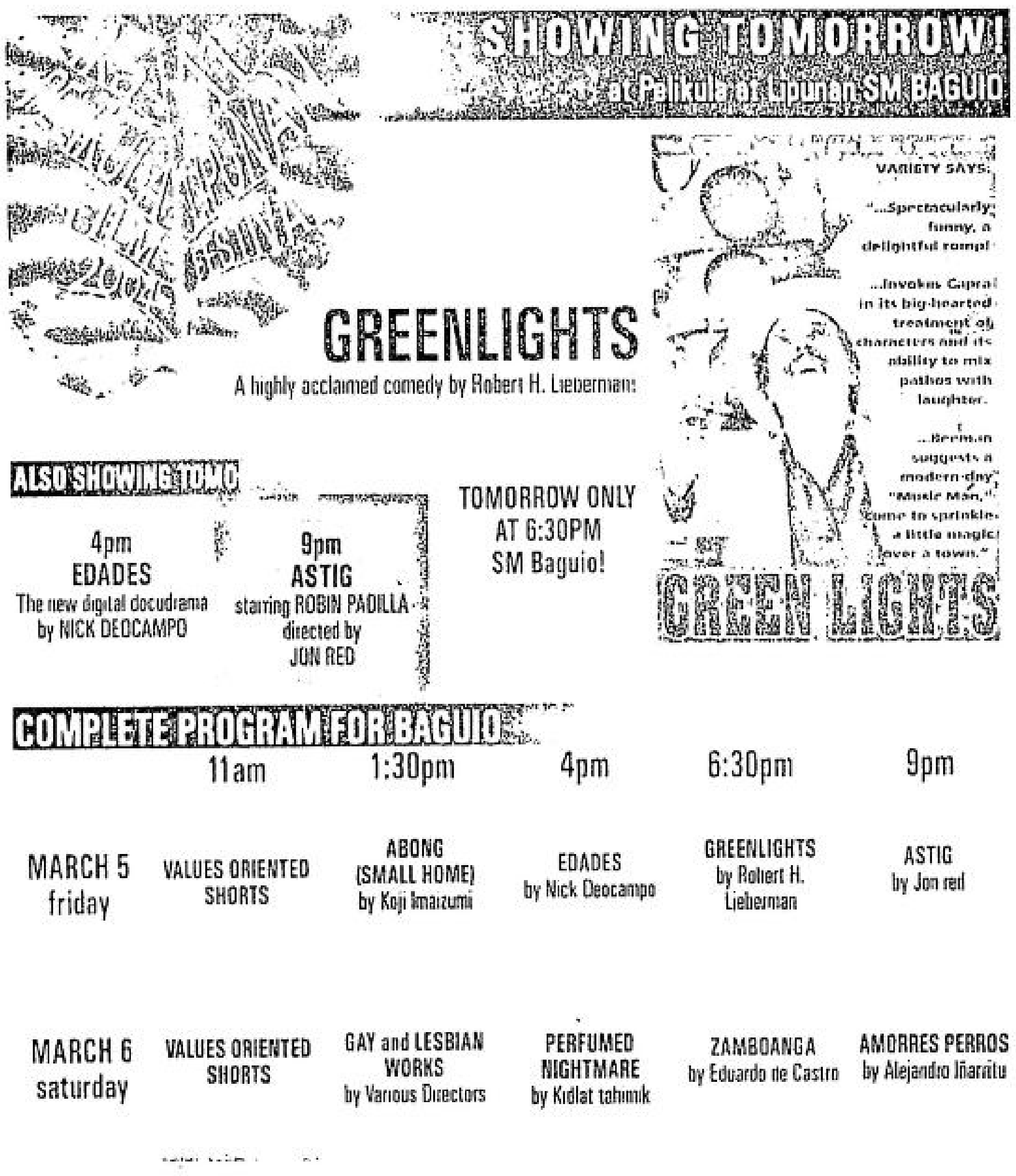

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Perwoll
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Not surprisingly, the success of "American Idol" has spawned a number of local counterparts—"Star in A Million," "Search for A Star," "Starstruck" and "Star Circle Quest," which debuted only last Monday.

The local talent search shows' most successful discovery to date has been **Sarah Geronimo**, whose show biz career has been launched with a hit album, popular live performances, a couple of movie roles, and now, a TV drama series of her own.

The four "Starstruck" survivors have also clicked with show biz fans. Other programs' "discoveries" have yet to really make it, however. Still, the success stories have motivated producers to come up with new search gambits, like Star Circle's belated "Quest."

FIL-AM looker Camile Velasco might be the next American idol.

Star Circle's search may be a delayed response to "Starstruck," but it does that show one better by discovering not just teen talents, but child performers as well. For its part, "Starstruck's" second season is focusing exclusively on child talents.

This is all to the good because it's been quite a while since we've had a child superstar on the local show biz scene. Let's hope that "Star Circle Quest" and "Starstruck" discover the next **Niño Muhlach** and **Aiza Seguerra**.

But they should handle their juvenile contestants much more gently than "Starstruck" dealt with its teen finalists last year. To make sure of this, the two programs should get child psychologists as consultants.

OnQ Band

BAGUIO City's best-kept secret, the OnQ Band, will be heard in Manila at Merk's Bar Bistro at Greenbelt 3 on March 4. Call 757-4720.

OnQ band members are **Mario Colomo, Pia Santayana-Trinidad, Ike Reynoso, Jonnie Abubo** and **Egay Buning**.

'Tribal Week'

ONGOING until March 5 on Discovery Channel is "Tribal Week," a special programming event that introduces viewers to cultures in which medicine men and ancestral spirits still hold sway.

Featured programs include "The Witchdoctor's New Bride," "Planes, Pigs and the Price of Brides" and "Ghosts of the Killing Fields."

The documentaries show that there are remote villages in distant parts of the globe that have remained virtually untouched by the influences of the modern world.

Computers, TV sets and other devices that many people can't live without are alien objects to peoples such as the Melenit of Western Ethiopia and the Migani of Irian Jaya. But the great discovery is, some of the age-old tribal practices are still effective to this day!

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Foreign investors advised to avoid RP

FOREIGN stock analysts have warned investors to avoid the Philippines, as endemic corruption, a gaping fiscal deficit, and election uncertainty have pushed up the country's risk premium.

They noted that spreads over risk-free US Treasuries on Philippine dollar bonds have spiked by about 5 to 45 basis points in the past month, while the peso has lost about 1.3 percent this year.

"In the Philippines, the currency is telling you what's going on there. Our view is that there's better value to be had elsewhere," said Markus Rosgen, equities strategist at ING Financial Markets.

In contrast, other Asian markets are expected to rally as governments from Malaysia to South Korea prepare to hold national elections in the coming months.

The elections in eight Asian nations this year are buying opportunities for stock investors as governments pour money into their economies, cut taxes, set asset sales and liberalise industries, strategists and fund managers said.

"There's a push from the governments to get their economies going before the elections and so there's increased spending by them," said Reginald Tan, director of investment at Credit Agricole Asset Management.

Malaysia yesterday set the stage for a snap election, Taiwan will elect a new president later this month, and voting in India and Indonesia will start in April.

"The ones likely to continue to do well ahead of elections are Taiwan, followed by Malaysia and Indonesia," said ING's Rosgen. "You have got positive momentum in terms of absolute returns expected and the pump priming occuring in those economies.

Rosgen's top picks: banking and consumer stocks like Taiwan's Chinatrust Financial and Taishin Financial, Malaysia's AMMB Holdings Bhd and Commerce Asset-Holding Bhd and Indonesia's PT Ramayana Lestari Sentosa and PT Gudang Garam.

Investors should buy into Taiwan and Malaysia because they lagged other markets in 2003, said Ray Jovanovich, chief investment officer at Credit Agricole Asset Management.

The benchmark Taiwan share index, TAIEX, is up 18 percent this year, making it the region's best performer after China's domestic markets. Malaysia's KLSE composite index has risen 11.1 percent.

"Ever since Badawi came to power in Malaysia, he's been very impressive. He has been looking at projects on a cost-by-cost basis. Reform of water utilities remain a key theme there. Companies, including the mid-cap ones, involved in restructuring of the water sector will benefit there," said Stephen Corry, equities strategist at Merrill Lynch.

Foreign investors have bought US$3.8 billion of Taiwanese equities so far this year as many expect index compilers Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) to lift Taipei to developed market status after the presidential elections.

FOREIGN/ B2

Economists forecast lower GDP growth

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S domestic economy will likely expand by only 4.4 percent, or lower than the government's target of 4.9-5.8 percent this year, based on forecasts of private analysts polled by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In a report released yesterday, the BSP said private sector economists appeared "less bullish" on economic performance this year despite the improving global outlook.

Based on the BSP's poll, the private sector's expectation on inflation was in line with the BSP's own target for this year.

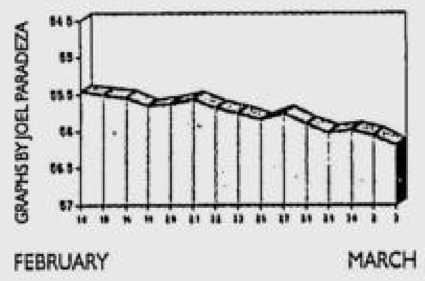
The survey indicated an average projection of 4.2-percent inflation rate for 2004, well within the government's target of 4-5 percent.

"The forecast rise in average inflation from 2003 is due to increased expenditures related to the upcoming elections in May as well as the prospects of improvements in personal

ECONOMISTS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



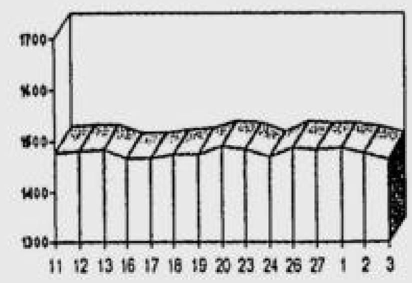
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.20= $1
As of 5 p.m.,March 3, 2004

¥ 110.19 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., March 3, 2004

GOLD: $390.60-391.10
per ounce Hong Kong, March 3, 2004

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close weaker

SHARE prices closed 0.95 percent lower yesterday with investors locking in gains or taking to the sidelines ahead of a Supreme Court ruling expected soon on the presidential candidacy of movie star Fernando Poe Jr., dealers said.

There were concerns that a definitive ruling on Poe's eligibility to contest the May 10 polls may remain up in the air after court sources said the justices may vote to refer the case to a lower court.

Prospects of a US interest rate increase, which triggered losses on Wall Street overnight, also undermined sentiment because such a move could force the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to move in step here, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed down 14.02 points to 1,463 after trading between 1,461.60 and 1,475.85.

Turnover was 430.6 million shares worth P508.4 million after 140.19 million shares worth P1.6 billion on Tuesday.

Losers led gainers 22 to 10, while 44 stocks were unchanged. *AFP*

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Cash dismissed

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

HERE we are again, election time. And so the most inveterate gossips of them all, those hard-nosed businessmen, are working overtime to gather information.

Another term for "information gathering" nowadays is, well, attending each and every business forum, i.e. gossip session, listening to every bit of rumor.

As everybody knows, everything stopped in business ever since Gloriaetta announced that she would, ah, well, er, NOT keep her presidential word after all.

As a result, we now have another actor who wants to become the president of the Republic. Based on the surveys, he happens to be leading the race by a mile.

* * *

THUS the talk of the business town remains the big-time case before the Supreme Court, seeking to disqualify Fernando Poe Jr., a.k.a. Sideburns, from the elections.

As usual, therefore, business is abuzz with talk about two possible versions of the Supreme Court ruling on the notable case.

One version says that, based on its record as the world's most meddlesome court, this Supreme Court would not think twice about disqualifying Sideburns just like that.

But the other says that the Supreme Court will simply remand it to a lower court, such as the Comelec. There, case dismissed! You know much like Pontius Pilate!

* * *

REPORTS now indicate that, all of a sudden, without much ado, thank you, surprisingly we have a Supreme Court which turns ... well, sort of a little gun shy.

And so who said that we had such a trigger-happy Supreme Court that it could not wait to rule on every case brought before it?

We are talking of the same Supreme Court which stopped the Comelec from doing its job to do an electronic counting of the votes in the forthcoming elections.

The same Supreme Court also ruled, in effect, that it knew more than the experts of the Energy Regulatory Commission, or ERC, in determining electricity rates.

* * *

NOW, all of a sudden, we have a Supreme Court which may decide that if it just sends the Sideburns case down to the lower courts, the problem will be solved.

Actually, it all makes sense. This Supreme Court is never really known for consistency. You do remember the Jancom *basura* case, don't you?

And so word is going around in business that, ultimately, because of the suddenly gun shy Supreme Court, Sideburns and his opposition party will just be dribbled around.

That is not good for the KNP, which is the nickname of the Sideburns coalition, which is made of both serious and comedic politicians.

* * *

BY merely dribbling around the disqualification case of Sideburns, you can really make it hard for the KNP to raise campaign funds. You know—there, cash dismissed!

No businessman in his right mind will give to a campaign where nobody is even certain that its most popular figure is a "go" or not.

Word is that, well, if only to deny Sideburns and his group the campaign funds, the case-dribbling-around should be a good strategy after all.

Such a line gives credence to rumors that if you as much as contribute to any presidential candidate who is NOT Gloriaetta, you will get a threatening call from somebody.

It is, of course, an unofficial call. The "caller" is not even part of this cute administration's official family. He is just part of the family, period.

* * *

BY the way, as an aside, did you hear the one about the meeting of Mike the Knife in Malacañang with a big group of barangay officials from Quezon City?

In the meeting, Mike the Knife was supposed to have talked extensively about a certain Jose Pidal, who is of course not him, and so he had nothing to do with the bank accounts.

Still, he tried to convince the huge audience of Quezon City barangay officials that no law was broken by Jose Pidal, whoever he was.

He noted that the bank accounts were closed even before the anti-money laundering law was passed.

To the barangay officials, it was not as if Mike the Knife was admitting that he was indeed Jose Pidal. It's just that Mike the Knife knew a lot about the accounts.

In the same meeting, Mike the Knife took a swipe at another presidential candidate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, indicating with body language that the senator was...well, gay.

Now, some people in the audience happened to be gay. Correct me if I'm wrong but it seems this cute administration just lost some support in Quezon City.

* * *

ANYWAY, that same strategy of denying candidates the much needed campaign funds already worked in 1992.

At that time, just like Sideburns today, the man named Band . . . Wrist Band...was leading in the surveys on the presidential election. You know by miles and miles.

But the story then was that Wrist Band was forced to slide down and run as vice president because he did not even have enough money.

The camp of Wrist Band could not even raise funds to pay for poll watchers on election day itself.

He might get the votes, sure, but none in his camp could say at that time if the votes would be counted for him.

* * *

BUT word also goes around that the Supreme Court may want to assign the Sideburns case to a lower court because the Supreme Court is a little short of hands.

Out of the 15 positions of justices, the Supreme Court only has 14 justices after one justice retired several months ago.

Now, Gloriaetta appointed a woman justice from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court to fill up the vacancy.

In fact, the Judicial Bar Council is wondering aloud what is taking this cute administration so long to swear in the new Supreme Court justice,

Up to today, although the new justice was already appointed, she has yet to take her oath as Supreme Court justice. Somebody called off her oath-taking.

* * *

IT is not clear if the delay in the oath-taking has anything to do with the reported confusion over the opinion of Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo.

Benipayo, who was ousted from the Comelec, thanks to bad press, supposedly issued an opinion, saying that Sideburns is a natural-born Filipino citizen.

Based on talk going around, however, Benipayo's opinion somehow mysteriously changed when it was released by Malacañang.

Suddenly, in the media release, which was engineered by Malacañang, Benipayo believed that Sideburns was, well, NOT a Filipino.

* * *

BUT then Benipayo was also one of the candidates for the last slot in the Supreme Court, together with the already appointed lady justice and the candidate of ... well, THE firm.

Nobody knows if Benipayo is still in the running, even with Gloriaetta's appointment of the lady justice.

In business, they are saying that he still has a chance, as long as the new appointee is not yet sworn in. I tell you, these businessmen know all the political gossip.

US carriers pay PLDT $8M in overdue termination fees

By Clarissa S. Batino

AMERICAN carriers AT&T, MCI (formerly WorldCom Inc.) and Sprint Communications have paid some $8 million in overdue termination fees to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Inc.

"It's about $8 million. This was the result of the interim agreements we signed with them on different occasions. These were long overdue payments," said PLDT senior vice president for international and carrier business group Alfredo Panlilio.

Foreign carriers pay termination rates to local carriers such as PLDT for accepting or completing their subscribers' calls.

These rates are set at $0.12 per minute (from $0.8 per minute before February 2003) for landline calls and $0.16 per minute (from $0.12 per minute) for mobile calls.

PLDT entered into interim agreements on termination rates with MCI and Sprint USA in November last year followed by AT&T in January.

Under the agreement, PLDT would accept traffic from the foreign carriers' network while they settle their long-standing dispute on terminate rates.

The US-Philippine route is the fourth-largest international route based on outgoing US calls, with about 1.7 billion minutes in 2001, according to data from the FCC. At that time, local carriers were paid around $190 million.

The US Federal Communications Commission earlier stopped the US carriers from paying their termination fees to local carriers on grounds that local carriers were engaged in price fixing. The FCC has since lifted the stop payment order.

"Now, we are working on the present traffic. But I don't foresee any collection problems because the agreements are binding. It's good that there's this arrangement put in place by the regulators. We got paid and traffic is now normal," Panlilio added.

The remaining issue is the US grand jury investigation. American authorities are reportedly building up an anti-trust case against Philippine carriers for allegedly behaving like a cartel when they uniformly raised termination rates in February 2003.

Economists forecast . . .

From page B1

consumption and investment levels after the elections," the BSP report said.

The BSP also expected stronger export growth in the wake of an improving global environment to help fuel domestic demand.

There were 10 institutions polled by the BSP on their expectations on inflation and gross domestic product (GDP): AB Capital Securities, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Cemex Corp., CLSA Philippines, Equitable PCI Bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Multinational Investments Bancorp., Nomura Securities, Wallace Business Forum and UBS Warburg Securities.

All of these institutions gave their inflation forecasts while two did not give projections on GDP, the single most important indicator of economic output measuring the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy.

Among those who submitted their GDP forecasts, the most optimistic was Metrobank, which projected a range of 4.3-4.8 percent, while the least optimistic was Nomura with a forecast of 4.2 percent.

The government's GDP growth forecast for 2004, on the other hand, banks on the following:

- a 3.7-4.2 percent growth in agriculture due to favorable weather and continued government support to improve productivity such as the use of modern rice varieties, construction and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities and improvement in agricultural marketing through the use of roll-on roll-off (roro) vessels;
- a 4.7-5.2 percent growth in industry output supported mainly by the export-oriented manufacturing and mining sectors as well as election-related spending and increased public construction.

On the demand side, it assumes a growth in exports by 10 percent and imports by 11 percent.

"Private consumption is seen to remain robust as real incomes brought by enhanced employment opportunities in industries, will improve along with continued remittances from the overseas Filipino workers," the BSP said.

"Government consumption will rise based on the national government's programmed fiscal spending," it added.

Foreign investors advised to avoid RP

From page B1

"Taiwan is a very good play pre-elections. After the elections, it will depend on the results. It's a very close call at the moment," said Nilesh Jasani, equity strategist at HSBC.

Credit Agricole Asset Management said it believed Beijing could gift Taiwan with a large free trade agreement if the island's opposition Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang (KMT), were to win.

That could jump-start the moribund domestic service sector.

Some analysts say political wranglings with mainland China could rise if incumbent Chen Shui-bian emerges victorious, but others believe the risk premium on domestic assets is going to decline after the uncertainly surrounding the election is over.

"We remain overweight Taiwan with a focus on the technology sector which will be the main beneficiary of foreign investors returning to the market," said Ben Rudd, strategist at ABN AMRO.

"We look for stocks that will be benefit from index re-weighting and signs of an improvement in U.S. corporate technology spending such as Hon Hai, Compal Elec, TSMC and Powerchip."

Strategists also said it was good time to buy into India as stocks typically rally around elections there.

The Bombay index rose 53 percent from the start of 1999 until elections were called in August. The benchmark resumed its upward march after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led coalition government was installed in October 1999, gaining 46 percent to a then-record high February 2000.

That high was not breached until January this year after the government set tax cuts on a variety of goods and services. Planned sale of stakes in state-owned energy companies, market friendly reforms in telecommunications could give the rally legs.

"The BJP-led coalition has pursued pro-reform policies, particularly in telecom, energy and utilities. There's a positive outlook for those three sectors," said Merrill's Corry. *Reuters*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 3, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	17	17	14,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45.5	45.5	169,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	20,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	500,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	128,600
Philippine National Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	2,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	12,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	15,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	3,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	75,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2020	2020	2010	2010	1,520
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	203,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	158	158	157	158	1,260
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1500	1500	1500	1500	200
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23	23	23	23	6,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	680,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	865	870	865	865	26,710
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	3,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.44	1.46	6,133,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	945	945	925	930	171,730
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20	20	20	20	120,000
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	32	32	203,200
Petron Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	674,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	133,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	1,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.34	679,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	19.25	19.25	18.75	18.75	103,700
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	5,300
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	69.5	69	69.5	65,300
Universal Robina Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	56,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6	5.8	5.9	2,607,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.05	3.05	3	3	19,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	7,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.95	1	0.95	1	310,000
APC Group Inc.	0.065	0.07	0.065	0.07	1,200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.59	4,090,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.5	24	23.5	23.75	144,300
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.02	1.06	2,450,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,000,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	120,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	850,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13	13	13	8,500
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	40,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,060,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.75	23	22.75	23	110,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	400	400	400	400	120
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	5,530,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	83,481,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.18	1,100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	7,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	10,635,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.003	260,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	28,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.027	0.031	0.027	0.03	1,500,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,146,380	16,858,750.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	34,850,890	306,893,785.00
PRO	102,873,000	183,514,700.00
Mining	262,200,000	866,600.00
OIL	29,500,000	128,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	430,570,270	508,262,635.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	434.66	DOWN 2.15
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,268.66	DOWN 25.19
PRO	528.90	DOWN 3.51
Mining	1,492.69	UP 2.37
OIL	1.25	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	936.41	DOWN 4.80
Composite	1,463.00	DOWN 14.02

NO. OF ADVANCES: 10, NO. OF DECLINES:22, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 44, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 76, NO. OF TRADES: 1,132

DISCLOSURES

WILLIAM, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc. will buy the vessel MV Brinkness for $4.5 million from Brinkness S.A., a Panamanian company.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. disclosed the resignation of George Sycip as director and John Sadullo as director, corporate information officer and compliance officer of the company.

* * *

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting to April 30 at 9 a.m.

* * *

BASIL Abul-Hamayel was elected vice president of Petron Corp.

* * *

RAFAEL Evangelista resigned as director of **Fil-Estate Land Inc.** Ruben Payumo was elected independent director of the company.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. denied having any information that could explain the unusual decline in the price of its shares.

* * *

IN February, 17,917 shares of **Jollibee Foods Corp.** were exercised and fully paid for under the company's stock option plan that brings the total treasury shares allotted for this plan to over 9.3 million. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

March 3, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.818331	1.000000	56.2620
Japan	Yen	0.007433	0.009083	0.5110
United Kingdom	Pound	1.505565	1.839800	103.5108
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105124	0.128462	7.2275
Switzerland	Franc	0.631916	0.772201	43.4456
Canada	Dollar	0.609921	0.745323	41.9334
Singapore	Dollar	0.479004	0.585343	32.9326
Australia	Dollar	0.627265	0.766518	43.1258
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.170754	2.652661	149.2440
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218484	0.266987	15.0212
Brunei	Dollar	0.477606	0.583635	32.8365
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000097	0.000118	0.0066
Thailand	Baht	0.020807	0.025426	1.4305
UAE	Dirham	0.222802	0.272264	15.3181
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.222000	68.7522
Argentina	Peso	0.280250	0.342466	19.2678
Brazil	Real	0.281891	0.344471	19.3806
Denmark	Kroner	0.134201	0.163994	9.2266
India	Rupee	0.018113	0.022134	1.2453
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215379	0.263193	14.8078
Mexico	New Peso	0.074651	0.091224	5.1324
New Zealand	Dollar	0.560731	0.685213	38.5515
Norway	Kroner	0.114747	0.140221	7.8891
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014319	0.017498	0.9845
South Africa	Rand	0.122710	0.149952	8.4366
Korea	Won	0.000698	0.000853	0.0480
Sweden	Kroner	0.108078	0.132071	7.4306
Syria	Pound	0.018602	0.022732	1.2789
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024648	0.030120	1.6946
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000427	0.000522	0.0294

CREDITORS AMENABLE

Vitarich to suspend debt payment for 3 yrs

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CREDITOR banks of publicly listed Vitarich Corp. are expected to allow the livestock feeds manufacturer to temporarily suspend payments on debts worth P3.2 billion.

Vitarich financial consultant Joey Macadaeg said that based on the amendments to the company's restructuring plan, Vitarich will postpone for three years the payments for its principal debt of P3.195 billion.

The suspension was made retroactive from Jan. 1, 2003 until Dec. 31, 2005.

With the amendments to the restructuring plan, the company aims to return to profit by 2006. This apparently convinced the creditors to agree to the debt payment suspension.

From January last year to end -2005, only interest on the "serviceable portion" of the debt worth P1 billion will be paid. This is equivalent to 9 percent per year for the three-year period.

Interest on the "non-serviceable portion" or the balance of P2 billion will not be paid until the end of 2005.

Creditor banks are hoping that a permanent restructuring program will be in place by 2006 to allow the company to service its debts.

Under its proposed business plan, Vitarich will shift its resources to its animal feeds business from the poultry business.

Macadaeg said that Vitarich had received written notices from its creditor banks approving the amendments. What has yet to be signed is an amendment agreement which is currently being drafted by their respective lawyers.

Among the company's creditor banks are Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., Philippine National Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, Equitable PCI Bank and Bank of Commerce.

The amended restructuring plan is expected to be put in place by the end of this month.

Vitarich incurred a net loss of P231.79 million in the first quarter last year, up from P174.65 million recorded in the same period in 2002.

DOF steps into Puyat heirs-GSIS Bank row

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has stepped into the row between the heirs of the late Sen. Gil Puyat Sr. and the GSIS Family Bank over about 300,000 shares of stocks in various companies allegedly withheld by the bank illegally.

According to a Finance official, the finance department was prodded to review the case after David So, a representative of the Puyat heirs, had asked the government agency to intervene.

The official said a group from the DOF was tasked to investigate the complaint of the Puyat heirs with regard the alleged illegal withholding by the GSIS Family Bank of the millions-of-pesos worth of company shares owned by the late senator.

The finance department will particularly look into the legal aspects of the issue, the official said. "They (Puyats) believe that since the shares have not been foreclosed, the right of the bank over the shares should have been prescribed," said the official.

He said the Puyats were hoping that the DOF could convince the GSIS Family Bank to return the shares.

The contested 345,711 shares were pledged by the late senator and his associates in 1980-1983 to Royal Savings Bank (renamed ComSavings Bank in 1984 and now GSIS Family Bank) to secure P5.1 million worth of loans for the operations of the companies belonging to the Puyat estate.

The P5.1 million worth of loans made in the early 1980s have ballooned to more than P200 million due to interests and other charges.

The Puyat estate included the defunct Puyat Steel, the Gonzalo-Puyat Furniture and the Loyola subsidiaries, such as the Loyola Life Plan and the Loyola Memorial Chapel.

The Puyat estate failed to settle its obligations upon maturity of the loans, while ComSavings Bank likewise failed to take legal action to collect from the Puyats or to foreclose the pledged shares of stock. *Michelle V. Remo*

Arrest warrants issued on cell card firm execs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE METROPOLITAN Trial Court of Manila issued an arrest warrant on two officials of TID International Inc., a cellular phone card distributor of Globe Telecom, for tax evasion amounting to over P400 million.

The warrants were served Tuesday on TID general manager Chi Weng Neng and corporate secretary Gigi Amorin, according to Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno.

This was the first arrest warrant issued in relation to a tax evasion case since the Bureau of Internal Revenue introduced last year its computerized auditing system called the Reconciliation of Listings for Enforcement (Relief).

This followed complaints filed by the BIR with the Department of Justice last year against five cellular phone card distributors and two other firms for gross under-declaration of tax and non-declaration of sales.

Parayno said the filing of the tax evasion charges was part of the BIR's intensified campaign against tax delinquency, which has resulted in substantial revenue loss for the bureau.

"Taxpayers need to keep in mind that we will send to jail tax evaders. We encourage you therefore to make a correct disclosure of your income, sales and purchases," said Parayno.

The six other companies charged by the BIR last year for tax evasion are Goldwell Construction Supply, Cellpage International Corp., Synergy Distribution Inc., LM Camus Engineering Corp., Eastpoint Marina Inc., and Ackers Philippines Inc.

Aichi investing ₱258M in Toyota ecozone

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AICHI Forging Company of Asia Inc., the largest metal forging company in Southeast Asia, is putting up a facility in Toyota Special Economic Zone in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, in line with its expansion plan for its Philippine operations.

AFC and Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., a major client of the former and operator of the ecozone, yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement on the metal forging company's project.

AFC is investing P258 million in the Toyota ecozone within two years for capacity build-up. The company also signed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority a registration contract as a new economic export enterprise.

AFC produces automotive parts for transmission gears and shafts mainly for Toyota Autoparts Philippines, Asian Transmission Corp., Isuzu Autoparts Manufacturing Corp., Laguna Autoparts Manufacturing and Daiwa Seiko Philippines.

At present, AFC is able to export its products indirectly through its customers. Its new export enterprise status allows it to directly sell its products abroad.

Yuji Shibata, president of AFC's parent company Aichi Steel Corp. of Japan, said in a statement that the company's new status would enable the company to support the needs of its customers in the Asian market.

Shibata said AFC, which has so far invested P147 million in the country, would invest another P208 million this year and an additional P50 million in 2005 to double its production capacity.

He said the increased capacity was intended for Toyota's propeller and axle production operations in Thailand and Indonesia.

For his part, Toyota Motor president Nobuharu Tabata said: "This partnership makes the cluster for transmission and drive train manufacturers in the Philippines stronger and more competitive in the world market."

The expatriate said the Toyota ecozone was hosting a number of investors that perform strategic roles in the production and exports of automobile products to other Southeast Asian countries, Japan and other parts of the world.

Locators in the Toyota ecozone exported a total of $126 million in 2003. Exports are expected to reach $163 million in 2006.

DA expects enough pork supply in Metro Manila

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is downplaying the likely impact of a "pig holiday" set to be staged this week by a group of meat dealers and vendors, which is aimed at cutting the supply of pork to wet markets in Metro Manila.

Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said in an interview yesterday that other slaughterhouses, including a Caloocan slaughterhouse, and a group of commercial and backyard swine operators were not joining the protest of Dennis Alcoreza's group.

"We were assured by a majority of slaughterhouse operators, traders and backyard hog raisers that they will continue to supply pork to Metro Manila and will not join the group of Mr. Alcoreza," said Lorenzo.

Alcoreza leads the newly formed Meat and Hog Dealers Associations of the Philippines, who are protesting the rising farmgate prices of hogs. Live weight prices of hogs rose from only P82 per kilo to P93 per kilo.

"We are actually absorbing the sudden increase in the price of hogs at the farmgate," said Alcoreza.

The high farmgate prices of hogs triggered increases in the retail prices of pork.

The group had aborted its first attempt to hold a "pig holiday' after the National Federation of Hog Raisers committed to stop increasing hog prices. *Christine A. Gaylican*

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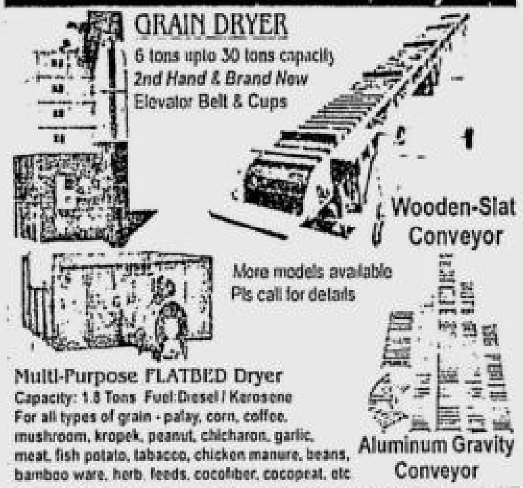
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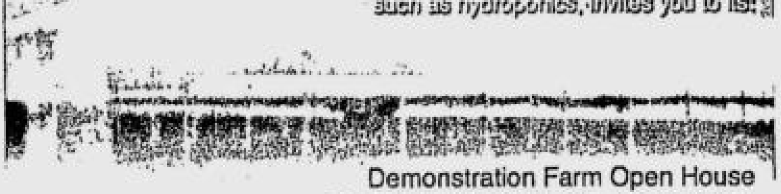

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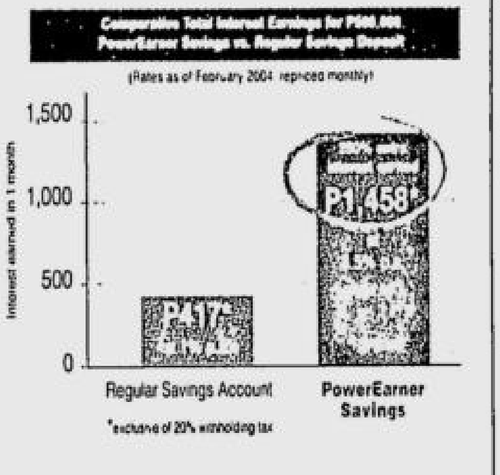
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12 ANNIE B

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2 21 GRAMS
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4 HAUNTED MANSION
5 IN THE CUT
6 HAUNTED OFFICE

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LMF/12:25 END

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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3 (DOLBY) GOTHIKA
4 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE

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(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

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2 (DOLBY) GOTHIKA
3 (DTS) SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
4 WATER DEMON

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2 CHASING LIBERTY
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(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

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3 (DOLBY) KUYA
4 (DTS) WISHING STAIRS

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3 RUN AWAY JURY

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3 U BELT
4 (DTS) GHOST HOUSE

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY) GOTHIKA
2 ANNIE B
3 (DTS) WATER DEMON
4 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
5 GHOST HOUSE

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1 ANNIE B
2 GHOST HOUSE

Olivarez Los Baños
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1 GOTHIKA
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3 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE

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1 U BELT
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3 (DTS) CHASING LIBERTY
4 (DOLBY) ANNIE B

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(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

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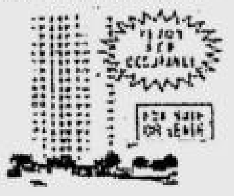

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MARIANO O. LIMJUCO was extrajudicially settled with self adjudication by his sole heir MARINA LIMJUCO PERALEJO as per Doc. No. 2; Page No. 31; Book No. XIV; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Renato Ambrosio L. Peralejo of Quezon City.
(PDI-March 3, 11 &18,2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DANTE P. TURINGAN was extrajudicially settled with self adjudication by his sole heir HELEN A. TURINGAN as per Doc. No. 126; Page No. 27; Book No. 5; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Teodoro Hernandez of Manila PDI-Feb 19, 26 & Mar. 4, 2004

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD-2004-03

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 16, 2004; 9:00 AM			
3A1	TUBES, HEAT EXCHANGER, STRAIGHT AND EXTERNALLY FINNED, SEAMLESS	OMRM-04-005 (RA)	P 4,795,000.00
3A2	RATCHET HANDLE REVERSIBLE HEXAGON SOCKETS, CARBIDE BURRS & WELDING ELECTRODES	OMRM-04-007 (RA)	P 1,058,960.00
3A3	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR THE REPAIR, TESTING & SATISFACTORY OPERATION OF ECONO-SHEAR (IOWA SHEAR) MACHINE	OOMR-04-011 (RA)	P 1,639,048.00
DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 16, 2004; 2:00 PM			
3B1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS, SUPERVISION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF FM-200 FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM INCLUDING ENG'G, TESTING & COMMISSIONING AT COA RECORD ROOM, STORAGE BLDG, NPC POWER COMPLEX	OPRS-04-016 (AC)	P 5,000,000.00
3B2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS. FOR THE REPAIR OF FFWSDO HOUSING/ QUARTERS AT ANGAT HEP	FFW-03-004 (LS)	P 1,000,000.00
3B3	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS, TOOLS, EQUIPTS., CONSUMABLES & TECH. SUPERVISION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF NEW OIL MIST DETECTORS	PB4-03-148 (NY)	P 2,700,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 17, 2004; 9:00 AM			
3C1	VARIOUS FLY ASH PIPE ELBOWS	1MCF-03-488 (JP)	P 1,540,000.00
3C2	HYDROVANE COMPRESSOR, BRAND HYDROVANE OR EQUIVALENT	1MCF-03-525 (JP)	P 980,000.00
3C3	SPARE PARTS FOR "BTG" TURBINE BY-PASS VALVES BRAND BTG, TYPE VLB	IMCF-04-027 (LS)	P 10,000,000.00
3C4	COMPRESSION FITTINGS, STAINLESS STEEL TUBINGS & MALE CONNECTORS	IMCF-04-068 (LS)	P 1,635,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 17, 2004; 2:00 PM			
3D1	PUMP, FYBROC MODEL 1500	1MCF-04-052 (LS) 1MCF-04-053 (LS)	P 720,000.00 P 950,000.00
3D2	BATTERY, SEALED VALVE REGULATED LEAD ACID TYPE, GNB IND'L BATTERY MODEL ABSOLYTE TYPE 100A63 OR EQUIVALENT	1MCF/ES-04-061 (JP)	P 11,550,000.00
3D3	HYDROCHLORIC ACID (HCL)	1MCF-04-037 (ZC) 2BCF-03-932 (ZC)	P 1,550,000.00 P 2,730,000.00
3D4	RESISTOR, THYRISTOR, FIELD CIRCUIT BREAKER & SIGNALLING LAMP OF GENERATOR FOR STATIC EXCITATION SYSTEM OF UNITS 1-4 OF MHEP	1 MAG-03-0179 (NY)	P 1,348,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 18, 2004; 9:00 AM			
3E1	J.O.-ENG'G, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF BRAND NEW BAGVENT FILTER ASSEMBLY FOR PRIMARY E.P. FLY ASH STORAGE SILO INTENDED FOR BCFTPP	2BCF-03-798 (NY)	P 4,875,000.00
3E2	VARIOUS MOTOR COMPRESSOR	2BCF-03-799 (NY)	P 1,522,000.00
3E3	BUTTERFLY VALVE W/ AIR OPERATED DOUBLE ACTING ACTUATOR	2BCF-03-872 (NY)	P 1,500,000.00
3E4	GROUND FAULT RELAY & CURRENT TRANSFORMER	2BCF-04-070 (NY)	P 4,750,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 18, 2004; 2:00 PM			
3F1	ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROMETER	3TGP-03-052 (ZC)	P 2,000,000.00
3F2	SYSTEM 1 CONDITION MONITORING & DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM	5LGP-03-331 (JP)	P 9,700,000.00
3F3	CIRCUIT BREAKER, MINIMUM OIL	5PGP1-03-301(JS)	P 5,000,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

3A1-3A3	MARCH 3, 2004; 9:00 AM	3D2-3D4	MARCH 4, 2004; 9:00 AM
3B1-3B3	MARCH 3, 2004; 2:00 PM	3E1-3E4	MARCH 5, 2004; 9:00 AM
3C1, 3C3, 3C4 & 3D1	MARCH 4, 2004; 2:00 PM	3F1-3F3	MARCH 5, 2004; 2:00 PM

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non refundable fee of Php 500.00 per schedule starting on **February 27, 2003. Issuance of Eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. No bid documents will be issued three (3) calendar days before the date of bidding.**

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by former Genco Offices wil be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Surety Bond-Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI–February 25 & March 4, 2004)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

ERRATUM

In the ad of the Department of Agriculture **Bureau of Fisheries**, published in this paper March 1, 2004, **Fisheries Administrative Order No. 224** and the issuance date, **13th day of February, 2004** was inadvertently missed.

Our Apologies

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SPECIAL BOARDS OF CANVASSERS ON OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 10, 2004 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS.

x-------------------------------x

ABALOS, BENJAMIN S.	Chairman
JAVIER, RUFINO S.B.	Commissioner
SADAIN, MEHOL K.	Commissioner
BORRA, RESURRECCION Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, FLORENTINO A. JR.	Commissioner
GARCILLANO, VIRGILIO O.	Commissioner
BARCELONA, MANUEL A. JR.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 27 February 2004

RESOLUTION NO. 6645

The Commission on Elections pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003 (RA 9189), and other pertinent election laws, has RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following General Instructions for the Special Boards of Canvassers on Overseas Absentee Voting in connection with the May 10, 2004 National and Local Elections.

SECTION 1. ***Special Board of Canvassers, Constitution and Appointment.*** — The Commission on Elections (hereinafter referred to as the "COMELEC") through the Chairman of the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") shall constitute not later than 25 April 2004 a Special Board of Canvassers (hereinafter referred to as the "SBOC") to canvass the Overseas Absentee Voting Election Returns (OAVF No. 9) and prepare the Overseas Absentee Voting Certificate of Canvass in each embassy, consulate or other foreign service establishments abroad.

The members of the SBOC shall be appointed by the COMELEC and shall be composed of a Chairman who must be an active member of the Philippine bar and in good standing preferably from the COMELEC, retired members of the Judiciary or from the private sector, or of any of the Philippine government agencies maintaining a post abroad, a Vice-Chairman and Member-Secretary who may be a senior career officer of any of the Philippine government agencies maintaining a post abroad, and in the absence of another government officer, a citizen of the Philippines qualified to register as overseas absentee voter under the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003.

SEC. 2. ***Qualifications of the Members of the SBOC.*** — No person shall be appointed as a member of the SBOC, unless he or she is:

a) of good moral character and irreproachable reputation; and
b) able to speak and write English or Pilipino.

SEC. 3. ***Disqualifications.*** — (a) The members of the SBOC or their spouses shall not be related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the same SBOC or to any of the candidates for President, Vice-President and Senator or their spouses, and to any of the nominees for the party-list system of representation or their spouses.

(b) No person who has been convicted of any election offense or of any other crime punishable by more than six (6) months imprisonment, or has a pending case filed against him for any election offense, may be appointed as member of the SBOC.

SEC. 4. ***Authority of the Chairman of the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting.*** — The Chairman of the Committee is authorized to appoint and designate the Chairman and members of the SBOC in accordance with COMELEC Resolution 6603 promulgated on 11 February 2004.

SEC. 5. ***Supervision and Control*** — The COMELEC shall exercise direct supervision and control over all SBOCs and may *motu proprio* relieve at any time any member thereof and designate the corresponding substitute/replacement.

SEC. 6. ***Replacement of Chairman and Members of the Board.*** — In case of non-availability, absence, disqualification due to relationship, or incapacity for any cause of the Chairman, a Filipino lawyer of good standing, not otherwise disqualified under the law, shall be appointed as his replacement.

With respect to the other members of the SBOC, the COMELEC shall appoint a replacement from the foreign service corps or from members of the Filipino community at the Posts qualified to register and vote under R.A. 9189.

A replacement shall be appointed in instances when the Chairman or member of the SBOC is unable to make his presence available for the entire term of the SBOC.

SEC. 7. ***Minutes of the Board.*** — The Member-Secretary shall prepare the Minutes of Canvassing (OAVF No. 11-B) of the Board in three (3) copies by recording therein the proceedings and such other incidents or matters relevant to the canvass.

Minutes of the proceedings shall be distributed accordingly: one copy for the Chairman of the Committee, one copy for the Law Department of the COMELEC. The last copy shall be given to the SBRCG at the Post where canvassing was held.

SEC. 8. ***Notice of Meetings of the Board.*** — Not later than May 5, 2004, the Chairman of the SBOC, through the Committee, shall give written Notice (OAVF No. 11-C) to all members thereof and to each candidate, political party or coalition of political parties fielding candidates for national position, and party, organization/coalition participating under the party-list system of the date, time and place of the canvassing, which shall be held, unless otherwise ordered by the COMELEC, in the Philippine Embassy/Consulate.

Similar notices shall also be given for subsequent meetings unless notice has been given in open session. Proof of service of notice to each member, candidate, political party fielding national candidates and party-list groups shall be attached to and form part of the records of the proceedings. If notice is given in open session, such fact shall be recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings.

Notice of the canvassing shall also be posted in three (3) conspicuous places in the building where the canvass shall be held.

Failure to give notice of the date, time and place of the meeting of the Board is an election offense under Sec. 261 (aa) (1) of the Omnibus Election Code.

The Committee may, whenever practicable, authorize the use of other means of disseminating such notice. Such means may include but not be limited to the tri-media.

SEC. 9. ***Convening of the Board.*** — The Board shall meet at 6:00 o'clock, Philippine time, in the evening of May 10, 2004 at the designated building/place in the Philippine Embassy/Consulate or other foreign service establishments authorized by the COMELEC to receive the election returns and to immediately canvass those that have already been received. It shall meet continuously from day to day until the canvass is completed, and may adjourn only for the purpose of awaiting the unsubmitted election returns. However, as the need arises, the Board may declare a recess.

The proceedings of the SBOC shall be open and public.

SEC. 10. ***Temporary Absence of a Regular Board Member.*** — In case a regular member of the SBOC is temporarily absent, the members present shall first verify whether notice has been served on the absent member. In case no such notice was sent, one shall be immediately served on the absent member. If the latter cannot be located or his whereabouts are unknown, he shall be substituted. These facts shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Board. As soon as the absent member appears, the substitute member shall relinquish his seat to the regular member.

SEC. 11. ***Prohibition Against Transfer, Leaving Official Station.*** — During the period beginning election day, May 10, 2004, until the Certificates of Canvass of Votes (COC) shall have been personally submitted to the concerned Boards of Canvassers, no member or substitute member of the different SBOCs shall be transferred, assigned or detailed outside of his official station nor shall he leave said station without prior authority of the COMELEC. Such authority may be granted by the COMELEC through the Chairman of the Committee. In such case, a written report shall be submitted to the Commission en Banc.

SEC. 12. ***Feigned Illness.*** — Any member of the Board feigning illness in order to be substituted from the start until the completion of the canvass shall be guilty of an election offense.

SEC. 13. ***Incapacity of a Regular Board Member.*** — In case of sickness or serious injury of a regular member of the Board, a medical certificate shall be required attesting to the incapacity of said member. Upon submission of the medical certificate, a substitute shall be appointed. Said medical certificate shall be recorded in and form part of the Minutes of the Board.

SEC. 14. ***Quorum.*** — A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority vote of all the members thereof shall be necessary to render a decision.

SEC. 15. ***Powers and Functions of the Board.*** — The Board shall have full authority to keep order within the canvassing room or hall including its premises and enforce obedience to its lawful orders. If any person refuses to obey any lawful order of the Board or conducts himself in such disorderly manner as to disturb or interrupt its proceedings, the Board, by a majority vote, may order in writing any peace officer/guard of the embassy or consulate to take such person into custody until adjournment of the meeting. In the absence of any peace officer/guard, any other competent and able person deputized by the Board in writing, shall execute such order. Such fact shall be noted in the Minutes of the proceedings.

The SBOC shall:

a) Canvass the election returns (OAVF No. 9) for President, Vice-President, Senators, Party-List submitted by the Special Boards of Election Inspectors (SBEIs);
b) Accomplish the Statement of Votes by precinct/SBEI (OAVF No. 20) and thereafter, the Summary of Statement of Votes (OAVF No. 20-A);
c) Upon completion of the canvass, prepare in seven (7) copies, a Certificate of Canvass of Votes (COC) for President, Vice-President, Senators and Party-List (OAVF No. 21);
d) Transmit immediately after the completion of the canvass, an advance copy of the Certificate of Canvass (COC) and the Statement of Votes (SOVs) to the COMELEC, through the DFA-OAVS, via the facsimile and electronic mail facilities of the Philippine embassies/consulates, and other authorized canvassing centers.
e) Furnish the accredited major political parties and accredited citizens' arms, through the Committee, with copies thereof via facsimile, electronic mail and any other means of transmission equally safe, secure and reliable.
f) The Chairman of the SBOC shall personally deliver the Certificates of Canvass (COC) together with the Statements of Votes (SOVs) and the election returns intended for Congress and the COMELEC. Watchers of candidates, political parties and other interested parties may accompany the delivery.
g) Perform such other duties as may be required by the COMELEC.

SEC. 16. ***Right to be Present and to Counsel.*** — Every registered political party and party-list group, and every candidate for national position has the right to be present and to counsel during the canvass of the election returns: *Provided*, that only one counsel may argue for each party or candidate. They shall have the right to examine the election returns being canvassed without touching them, make observations thereon, and may file protests. No dilatory action or tactics shall be allowed by the Board.

SEC. 17. ***Watcher.*** — Each registered political party fielding candidates for national positions, and party-list group shall be entitled to one watcher in every canvassing center.

The citizens arm of the COMELEC, and civic, religious, professional, business, service, youth and other similar organizations shall collectively, and upon prior authority of the COMELEC, be entitled to two (2) watchers to serve alternately.

However, if there is no sufficient space for all watchers to be accommodated, preference shall be given to the watchers of the dominant majority and dominant minority parties as determined by the COMELEC, one (1) common watcher for the independent candidates, one (1) common watcher for the accredited citizens' arm and one (1) common watcher for accredited OFW organizations.

The watchers shall have the right to:

a.) Be present at, and take note of, all the proceedings of the Board;
b.) Stay behind the chairman of the Board near enough to be able to read the election returns without touching said documents; and
c.) File a protest (OAVF No. 11-D) as may be appropriate against any alleged irregularity noted in the election returns and obtain from the Board a resolution thereon in writing. Rules on the filing of protests shall be applied in this regard.

Watchers shall not be allowed to participate in the deliberation of the Board.

A person convicted by final judgment of any election offense or of any other crime or who is related to any member of the Board within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity shall not be appointed as watcher.

SEC. 18. ***Persons Not Allowed Inside the Canvassing Room.*** — During the canvass, it shall be unlawful for any person carrying firearm or deadly weapon to enter the room where the canvass is being held or to stay within a radius of fifty (50) meters from such room.

SEC. 19. ***Safekeeping of Election Returns.*** — The Board shall place the election returns intended for Congress and the COMELEC in separate special envelopes appropriately marked as such and which shall be sealed with serially numbered security tapes. The serial number of every security tape used shall be entered in the Minutes.

The said special envelopes shall be kept in a safe and secured room before, during and after the canvass. The room shall be locked with three (3) padlocks and the keys thereof shall be kept by each member of the Board to ensure that no envelope may be taken out of or deposited in the room without their presence.

SEC. 20. ***Canvassing Forms, Documents and Supplies.*** — The SBOC shall receive from COMELEC through the Committee canvassing forms and documents for its use. The supplies as indicated hereunder, shall be purchased by the Posts in accordance with the following schedule:

CANVASSING FORMS			
OAVF No.	**Title/Description**		**Rate of Distribution**
20	Statement of Votes by Precinct/SBEI	1	Set of 7 copies for every 11 SBEIs
20-A	Summary of Statement of Votes Per Post/Country	1	Set of 7 copies
21	Certificate of Canvass of Votes for National Positions & Party-List	1	Set of 7 copies
21-B to 21-H	Official Receipt of Certificate of Canvass	1	Set of 6 copies
12	Paper Seals	25	Pieces
13-A	Cert. of Votes Received by Candidates for National Positions & Party-list	25	Pieces
14-E	Certificate of Receipt of Canvassing Forms by SBOC	1	Set of 2 copies
11-B	Minutes of Canvassing	1	Set of 3 copies
11-C	Notice of Meeting		
11-D	Protest	25	Pieces
	Sticker Labels for Special Envelopes	10	Pieces
	Special Envelopes	10	Pieces
SECURITY POUCH ENVELOPE FOR CANVASSING			
21-A	For OAVF 21 and 20	1	Set of 7 cps.
SUPPLIES			
	Padlocks & keys	3	Pieces
	Bondpaper	30	Pieces
	Carbonpapers	10	Pieces
	Fingerprint taker	1	Piece
	Rubberband	10	Pieces
	Long Security Tapes	20	Pieces
	Ballpens		

SEC. 21. ***Canvassing Procedure.*** — Before the start of canvass, and upon entering the canvassing center/place, counsels/watchers shall present and deliver to the Chairman of the SBOC their appointments and forthwith, their names shall be recorded in the Minutes with a notation under their signatures that they are not disqualified to serve as such. The appointments of the watchers shall bear the facsimile signature of the candidate or the duly authorized representative of the political party, organization or coalition of coalition parties who appointed them or of organizations authorized by the COMELEC. For this purpose, registered political parties, organizations or coalitions authorized by the COMELEC, accredited citizens arms and OFW organizations, shall provide the COMELEC and the Posts with the names and signatures of their representatives authorized to appoint counsels/watchers in each Post at least fifteen (15) days before the day of canvassing, or until April 25, 2004.

FOR SINGLE Special Board of Elections Inspectors (SBEI)

The Board shall —

1) Through the Member-Secretary, receive the election returns (copies for SBOC, Congress and COMELEC) and record in the Minutes:

a. time and date of receipt of election returns;
b. the precinct number/SBEI No. of the election returns;
c. serial number of the envelope (OAVF No. 17) and paper seal; and
d. condition of the envelope and paper seal.

The copy intended for Congress and the copy intended for the COMELEC shall be placed in separate special envelopes for personal delivery by the Chairman of the Board after the canvassing of votes in the Posts.

2) Assign a set of Statement of Votes by Precinct/SBEI (OAVF No.-20) for the election returns and enter in the Minutes the serial number of the Statement of Votes (OAVF 20) so assigned.

3) Before opening the envelope containing the election returns (copy for the SBOC), exhibit the same before the counsels/watchers present.

4) Open the envelope, retrieve the election returns and exhibit the same to the counsels/watchers present.

5) Through its Chairman, examine the condition of the inner paper seal of the election returns, during which time, the Member-Secretary shall record in the Minutes its condition and serial number.

6) Break open the inner seal, unfold the election returns and exhibit the same to the counsel/watchers present. The Member-Secretary shall record in the Minutes the condition and serial number of the election returns.

7) Canvass the election returns by entering in the Statement of Votes the votes obtained by each candidate as they are read by the Chairman.

For purposes of preparing the Statement of Votes, the Board shall distribute the seven (7) copies of the Statement of Votes between the Vice-Chairman (4 copies) and Member-Secretary (3 copies) who shall accomplish the same simultaneously as the votes are read.

8) Immediately after the election returns had been canvassed, the chairman of the Board shall write on its upper right hand corner the word "CANVASSED" and affix below it his signature and the date of canvass. Thereafter, the canvassed election returns shall be returned to its envelope without sealing it.

9) The Vice-Chairman and Member-Secretary of the Board shall compare the entries contained in their respective copies of the Statement of Votes. If there are discrepancies in the entries, they shall refer to the election returns and make the necessary

(PDI – March 4, 2004)

correction/s on the Statement of Votes.

10) All the members of the Board shall affix their signatures above their printed names on the Statement of Votes.

11) Prepare a Certificate of Canvass (COC) of Votes (OAVF No. 21) , and thereafter affix their signatures and thumbmark on the certification portion thereof.

In accomplishing the COC, the Statement of Votes and other forms, all the members of the Board, shall see to it that the impression on the first copy of the set is recorded on each and every page thereof.

12) Require the watchers, if any, to affix their signatures and thumbmarks on the COC.

13) Place the COC, together with the election returns and the Statement of Votes, in the corresponding envelopes (OAVF No. 21-A) provided for the purpose.

14) Transmit an advance copy of the Certificate of Canvass (COC) to the COMELEC, using the COC (copy for the SBOC), through the DFA-OAVS, via the facsimile and electronic mail facilities of the Philippine embassies / consulates, and other authorized canvassing centers.

15) Distribute the other copies of the COC, together with the corresponding Statement of Votes, in the manner herein prescribed.

Copies which are not claimed by the concerned parties shall be turned over by the Chairman of the SBOC to the SBRCG of the Post where canvassing was held.

16) The canvassed election returns in its envelope shall be placed inside the special envelope sealed for submission to the Head of the Post for safekeeping.

FOR MULTIPLE Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEIS)

The Board shall —

1) Through the Member-Secretary, receive the election returns (copies for SBOC, Congress and COMELEC) and record in the Minutes :

a. time and date of receipt of election returns;
b. the precinct number/SBEI No. of the election returns;
c. serial number of the envelope (OAVF No. 17) and paper seal; and
d. condition of the envelope and paper seal.

The copy intended for Congress and the copy intended for the COMELEC shall be placed in separate special envelopes for personal delivery by the Chairman of the Board after the canvassing of votes in the Posts.

2) Assign one set of Statement of Votes (OAVF No. 20) and enter in the Minutes the serial number of the Statement of Votes so assigned. The SBOC may use additional set/s of Statements of Votes as maybe needed to accommodate the votes contained in the election returns submitted by all the SBEIs covered by the canvassing of the SBOC in that particular Post. The serial number/s of additional Statement of Votes that maybe used shall likewise be entered in the Minutes.

3) Before opening each envelope containing the election returns (copy for the SBOC), exhibit the same to the counsels/ watchers present.

4) Open each envelope, retrieve the election returns and exhibit the same to the counsels/watchers present.

5) Through its Chairman, examine the condition of the inner paper seal of the election returns, during which time, the Member-Secretary shall record in the Minutes its condition and serial number.

6) Break open the inner seal, unfold the election returns and exhibit the same before the counsels/watchers present. The Member-Secretary shall record in the Minutes the condition and serial number of the election returns.

7) Canvass the election returns by entering in the Statement of Votes the votes obtained by each candidate as they are read by the Chairman.

For purposes of preparing the Statement of Votes, the Board shall distribute the seven (7) copies of the Statement of Votes between the Vice-Chairman (4 copies) and Member-Secretary (3 copies) who shall accomplish the same simultaneously as the votes are read.

8) Immediately after each election returns had been canvassed, the chairman of the Board shall write on its upper right hand corner the word "CANVASSED" and affix below it his signature and the date of canvass. Thereafter, the canvassed election returns shall be returned to its envelope without sealing it.

8.1. The Vice-Chairman and Member-Secretary of the Board shall compare the entries contained in their respective copies of the Statement of Votes. If there are discrepancies in the entries, they shall refer to the election returns and apply the corrections as may be necessary. All the members of the SBOC shall initial the correction/s made on the Statement of Votes.

8.2. All the members of the Board shall affix their signatures above their printed names on the certification portion of the Statement of Votes.

The same procedure shall be observed for the succeeding election returns.

For purposes of preparing the Statement of Votes, the following terms are used:

a. ***Sub-total*** — sum of all votes obtained by each candidate at the time of adjournment/suspension of canvass when all the columns of a set of statement of votes are either filled or not filled. The sub-total shall be recorded in the last column indicated in the statement of votes.

b. ***Summary of Votes*** — listing of all sub-totals reflected in each set of Statement of Votes after the completion of the canvass. This shall be recorded in a separate set of Summary of Statement of Votes (OAVF No. 20-A) by entering in each column the sub-totals per set of statement of votes.

c. ***Grand total*** – total of the Summary of Votes obtained by each candidate as listed in the Summary of Statement of Votes.

9) After all the columns of the Statement of Votes are filled and there are more election returns to be canvassed:

9.1. The Vice-Chairman and Member-Secretary of the Board shall compare the entries contained in their respective copies of the Statement of Votes. If there are discrepancies in the entries, they shall refer to the election returns and apply the corrections as may be necessary. All the members of the SBOC shall initial the correction/s made on the Statement of Votes.

9.2. All the members of the Board shall affix their signatures above their printed names on the certification portion of the Statement of Votes.

9.3. The Board shall continue the canvass using a new set of Statement of Votes.

After all the columns of the Statement of Votes are filled/ unfilled and the canvass has been completed:

1. The Vice-Chairman and Member-Secretary of the Board shall compare the entries contained in their respective copies of the Statement of Votes. If there are discrepancies in the entries, they shall refer to the election returns and apply the corrections as may be necessary. All the members of the SBOC shall initial the correction/s made on the Statement of Votes.

2. All the members of the Board shall affix their signatures above their printed names on the certification portion of the Statement of Votes.

10) In cases where there are at least two (2) election returns, the Vice-Chairman of the Board shall add all the entries in each column of the Statement of Votes prepared and enter the sub-total in the space provided.

The Secretary and the Chairman shall respectively verify the accuracy of the entries in the Statement of Votes.

11) The Board shall prepare the Summary Statement of Votes (OAVF No. 20-A) by entering therein;

a. The serial number of the Statement of Votes containing the sub-total; and,
b. All the sub-totals for each candidate contained in the Statement of Votes prepared and tabulated earlier.

After all the columns have been filled or there are no more Statement of Votes containing sub-totals, affix their signatures above their printed names and imprint their thumbmarks on the certification portion of the Summary of Statement of Votes.

12) Place, in the presence of the watchers, if any, the Summary Statement of Votes together with the Statement of Votes containing sub-totals inside a special envelope without sealing the same.

13) Prepare a Certificate of Canvass (COC) of Votes (OAVF No. 21) , and thereafter affix their signatures and thumbmarks on the certification portion thereof.

In accomplishing the COC, the Statement of Votes and other forms, all the members of the Board, shall see to it that the impression on the first copy of the set is recorded on each and every page thereof.

14) Require the watchers, if any, to affix their signatures and thumbmarks on the COC.

15) Place the COC together with the Summary Statement of Votes in the corresponding envelopes provided for the purpose (OAVF No. 21-A).

16) Transmit an advance copy of the Certificate of Canvass (COC) to the COMELEC, using the COC (copy for the SBOC), through the DFA-OAVS, via the facsimile and electronic mail facilities of the Philippine embassies/consulates, and other authorized canvassing facilities.

17) Distribute the other copies of the COC, together with the corresponding Statement of Votes and Summary Statement of Votes, if any, in the manner herein prescribed.

Copies which are not claimed by the concerned parties shall be delivered by the Chairman of the SBOC to the SBRCG of the Post where canvassing was held.

18) Distribute the COC, together with the corresponding Statement of Votes, in the manner herein prescribed.

19) The canvassed election returns in its envelope shall be placed inside the special envelope sealed for submission to the Head of the Post for safekeeping.

SEC. 22. ***Objections During Canvassing.*** — All objections during the canvassing, including the issue on the inclusion of election returns, shall be noted in the Minutes of the proceedings. Parties interested to pursue their objections should file the same before the COMELEC.

SEC. 23. ***Adjournment/Suspension of Canvass.*** — A. In case of adjournment or suspension of canvass, the Board shall indicate the sub-total of votes obtained by each candidate and close the same by affixing their initials immediately after the number of votes. The Statement of Votes shall be placed in the special envelope provided in item (1) hereunder.

1) The remaining unopened envelopes containing copies of election returns intended for the SBOC and the Statement of Votes containing the sub-totals shall be placed in the special envelope provided for the purpose which shall be sealed with serially numbered security tapes.
2) The serial number of the seal and the quantity of the remaining unopened envelopes shall be recorded in the Minutes.

B. Upon resumption of the canvass:

1) The Member-Secretary of the Board shall verify and enter in the Minutes the condition of the seal affixed on the special envelope, as well as its serial number.
2) The Board shall then, in the presence of the watchers, open the special envelope, retrieve the unopened envelopes containing the election returns and resume canvassing using a new set of Statement of Votes.

SEC. 24. ***Distribution of Certificate of Canvass.*** — The COC for President, Vice-President, Senators and Party-List (OAVF No. 21) shall be distributed as follows:

a) First copy to the Congress directed to the President of the Senate;
b) Second copy to the Commission on Elections in Manila as National Board of Canvassers for Senators and Party-list;
c) Third copy intended for the Chairman of the SBOC shall be retained at the Posts for reference purposes;
d) Fourth copy to the citizens arm designated by the COMELEC to conduct an unofficial count. It shall be the duty of the citizens' arm to furnish independent candidates copies of the COC at the expense of the requesting party.
e) Fifth copy to the Dominant Majority Party;
f) Sixth copy to the Dominant Opposition Party; and
g) Seventh copy to the Chairman, Committee on Absentee Voting. The Committee shall furnish other registered political parties, and party-list groups certified true copy of the COC upon written request and at the expense of the requesting party.

All copies of the COC (OAVF No. 21) above-enumerated shall be supported by a Statement of Votes by Precinct/SBEI and the Summary Statement of Votes, if applicable.

The COC shall be signed and thumbmarked by the members of the SBOC and the watchers of the six accredited major political parties, if available. Thereafter, each shall be sealed and placed inside their corresponding envelopes, which shall likewise be sealed.

SEC. 25. ***Personal Delivery of the Certificates of Canvass/Minutes of the Proceedings.*** — The Chairman of the Board shall personally bring to Congress and the COMELEC their copies of the COC together with the Statement of Votes and election returns.

Copies of the Minutes of the proceedings shall likewise be hand-delivered by the Chairman of the Board to the Committee and the Law Department of the COMELEC.

SEC. 26. ***When the Election Returns are Delayed, Lost or Destroyed.*** — In case its copy of the election returns is missing, the Board shall, by authorized messenger, immediately obtain the same from the Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEI) concerned, or if the said election return has been lost or destroyed, the Board, upon prior authority of the COMELEC, may use any of the authenticated copies thereof or a certified copy of said election returns and forthwith investigate the case and immediately report the matter to the COMELEC.

The Board, notwithstanding the fact that not all the election returns have been received by it, may terminate the canvass upon prior authority of the COMELEC.

SEC. 27. ***Material Defects in the Election Returns.*** — If it should clearly appear that some requisites in form or data have been omitted in the election returns, the Board shall invite the attention of the Chairman of the concerned SBEI to effect the corrections: *Provided,* the Chairman of the SBEI concerned was given prior authority in writing by the other members of his Board to effect such corrections as directed by the SBOC; *Provided further,* That in case of the omission in the election returns of the name of any candidate and/or his corresponding votes, the Board shall require the Chairman of the SBEI concerned to complete the necessary data and affix therein his initials: *Provided,* That if the votes omitted in the election returns cannot be ascertained by other means except by recounting the ballots, the election returns shall be set aside and such fact shall be reported to the COMELEC.

For this purpose, the Chairman of the SBEI shall remain and be present before the Board until the election returns of his precinct had been canvassed.

SEC. 28. ***When Election Returns Appear to be Tampered With or Falsified.*** — If the election returns submitted to the Board appear to be tampered with, altered or falsified after they have left the hands of the SBEI or otherwise not authentic, or were prepared under duress, force, intimidation, or prepared by persons other than the members of the SBEI concerned, the Board shall use the other copies of said election returns. If necessary, the copy of the election returns inside the ballot box may be retrieved in accordance with Sec. 220 of the Omnibus Election Code upon previous authority given by the COMELEC. If the other copies of the election returns are likewise tampered with, altered, falsified, not authentic, prepared under duress, force or intimidation, or prepared by persons other than the members of the SBEI, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the COMELEC which shall proceed as provided in Sec. 235 of the Omnibus Election Code.

SEC. 29. ***Discrepancies in Election Returns.*** — In case there exist discrepancies between the votes in words and the votes in figures of any candidate, the votes in words shall prevail. If the discrepancy is in the tally (*tara)* as against the votes obtained in words or in figures in the same election returns, the votes in the tally (*tara*) shall prevail.

SEC. 30. ***Canvass to be Completed at Earliest Possible Time.*** — Subject to reasonable exceptions, the Board shall complete its canvass within thirty-six (36) hours.

SEC. 31. ***Pre-proclamation Cases Not Allowed.*** — For purposes of the elections for President, Vice President, Senator, Member of the House of Representatives under the party-list system, no pre-proclamation case shall be allowed on matters relating to the preparation, transmission, receipt, custody and appreciation of the election returns. However, this does not preclude the authority of the Board to *motu proprio* or upon written complaint of an interested person to correct manifest errors in the election returns before it.

Sec. 32. ***Illegal Composition or Proceedings of the Board.*** — Questions affecting the composition or proceedings of the SBOC may be initiated directly with the COMELEC, through the Committee. Such questions shall be merely noted in the Minutes attaching therewith all documents/proof of illegal composition and proceedings.

For this purpose, the Posts shall be required to appoint the Members of the SBOC not later than 12 March 2004.

SEC. 33. ***Manifest Error.*** — (a) Where it is clearly shown that manifest errors were committed in the tabulation or tallying of election returns, during the canvassing, the Board may *motu proprio*, or upon verified petition by any candidate, political party, organization or coalition of political parties, after due notice and summary hearing, correct the errors committed.

There is manifest error in the tabulation or tallying of the results during the canvassing where:

1. A copy of the election returns was tabulated more than once;
2. Two or more copies of the election returns of one precinct/SBEI, were tabulated;
3. There was mistake in the copying of the figures from the election returns into the Statement of Votes;
4. Election returns from non-existent precincts/SBEIs were included in the canvass;
5. Election returns from precincts of one country/post were included in the canvass in another country/post; or
6. There was a mistake in the addition of the votes of any candidate.

(b) In order to correct manifest errors, the following procedures shall be complied with.

1. The order for correction must be in writing and promulgated.
2. Any candidate, political party, or organization or coalition of political parties aggrieved by said order may appeal the same to the COMELEC within twenty-four (24) hours from its promulgation.
3. The appeal must implead as respondents the SBOC concerned and all parties that may be adversely affected.
4. Upon receipt of the appeal, the COMELEC Clerk of the Commission shall forthwith issue summons together with the copy of the appeal to the respondents.
5. The Clerk of the Commission shall immediately set the appeal for hearing.
6. The appeal shall be heard and immediately decided by the Commission En Banc.

SEC. 34. ***Contested Proceedings; Period to Appeal.*** — Parties adversely affected by a ruling of the Board on questions affecting the proceedings of the Board may appeal the matter to the COMELEC within five (5) days from the date of the ruling.

SEC. 35. ***Effectivity.*** - This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day following its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 36. ***Dissemination*** - The Education and Information Department shall cause the immediate publication of this resolution and shall furnish copies thereof to all political parties, party-list groups, and candidates for national positions.

The Committee shall furnish copies hereof to the Department of Foreign Affairs and all Philippine Diplomatic Posts thru the DFA Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat; the Department of Labor and Employment and Department of Justice and other agencies monitoring post abroad.

Let the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting implement this Resolution.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
CLASSIFIEDS
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE JUNK ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : March 24 and 25, 2004, 2:00 PM
The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following junk and unserviceable items:

SCHEDULE – I: March 24, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Room, Bldg.-1, NPC-HO, Diliman, Quezon City

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
1.	One (1) lot scrap metals consisting of aluminum claddings, radiators corroded drums and GI sheets, pipes motors, post and suspension insulators steel beams, fire extinguishers steel plates copper wires, and other junk items located at the cordoned off area of the Waste Segregation Area, Plant B, Mak-Ban GPP Bo. Bitin, Bay, Laguna.	P 1,645,000.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot of assorted cables consisting of co-axial, telephone, power and control cables located at Bataan TPP, Limay, Bataan.	P 1,040,550.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot scrap metals consisting of boiler re-heater tubes, air heater elements, steel racks, assorted pipes, control and co-axial cables, copper wires bare, and other scrap/junk items located at the cordoned off area of the Malaya TPP Tank Farm, Pililla, Rizal.	P 1,424,000.00/lot
*4.	One (1) lot expired AERO Foam, approximately 88 pails and 11 drums of waste/sludge oil located at Navotas Tank Farm, Navotas Fish Port, Navotas Metro Manila	P 7,436.00/lot

* DENR permit is required for participating bidders

SCHEDULE – II : March 25, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Room, Bldg.-1, NPC-HO, Diliman, Quezon City

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
1	One (1) lot scrap metals consisting of counter weights, stator coil, control corroded drums, GI sheets, pipes, motors, elevator parts, steel beams, insulators, used tires, angle bars, steel flat-forms, steel plates copper wires, control panels, circuit breaker mechanism boxes, valves, station batteries oil tanks, air condition equipment, marshalling boxes, and other junk items located at the cordoned off area of the Kalayaan CBK Office and Caliraya HEPP, Laguna.	P 1,302,400.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot of assorted pipes and junk items located at Bataan Thermal Power Plant (Bataan TPP), Limay, Bataan.	P 500,000.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot unserviceable power cables (9 reels) and (2 reels) wire ropes, located at the cordoned off area of the Kalayaan Warehouse, Laguna.	P 1,224,000.00/lot
*4.	One (1) lot used transformer oil, "PCB Free," 150 drums, located at Caliraya HEPP, Caliraya, Laguna (drums not included)	P 277,500.00/lot
5.	One (1) lot scrap and junk items located at Lubang Diesel Power Plant Lubang Island, Occidental Mindoro	P 695,000.00/lot

* DENR permit is required for participating bidders

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2002 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER OR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for the said bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from S.V. Lamuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor; NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM March 23, 2004 for Sch-1, March 24, 2004 for Sch-II.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI – March 4, 5 & 6, 2004)

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to be published on March 21, 2004
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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on April 02, 2004 at 10:00 AM at the National Food Authority Food Development Center, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila among all interested corn suppliers for the supply of maximum THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (350,000 MT), with an appropriated budget from NFA's corporate resources of FOUR BILLION PESOS (Php4.0 BILLION), Yellow Corn equivalent to US Grade No. 2 or better, of Omnibus Origin, in bulk or in bags, which should arrive at designated Philippine port within April-June 2004.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT. All interested corn suppliers are required to submit price offers in US PMT, CFR, FO, 1 safe port, 1-2 safe berths, under the following modes of payment:

Documents against Payment (D/P, or
Documents against Acceptance (D/A)

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the value offered in the form of Cashier's and/or Manager's Check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 5% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the Notice of Award in the form of Cashier's and/or Manager's Check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by irrevocable L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank. Bid bond can be converted to Performance Bond.

Certificate of Registration (COR) issued by the Bid and Awards Committee (BAC) is required from all prospective bidders. List of Registration and Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Instruction to Bidders may be secured from the BAC Supplemental Secretariat, 5th Flr., NFA Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City starting March 04, 2004.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) and Bid Documents will be available starting March 04 up to March 12, 2004 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00.

The **Pre-Bidding** conference will be held on **March 19, 2004, at 2:00 PM** at the **NFA Boardroom.**

Submission of the bid together with the bid bond will be between 8:00 AM to 9:55 AM at NFA Boardroom on **April 02, 2004. Opening of bids** will start at exactly **10:00 AM.**

Suppliers who have been issued COR for the supply of imported corn for year 2004 by the NFA-BAC shall be eligible to join the bidding.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required or defect therein and accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP**
Administrator, NFA

(PDI–March 4 & 11, 2004)

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April 13, 2004, Tuesday, 9:30am- 4:30pm (Whole day)
○ Learning Photoshop CS and Its Applications

April 14, 2004, Wednesday, 9:30am-4:30pm (Whole day)
○ Learning InDesign CS and Its Applications in Desktop Publishing

April 15, 2004, Thursday, 9:30am-12:30nn
○ Fundamentals of Effective Publications Design

April 15, 2004, Thursday, 1:30pm-5:00pm
○ Optimizing Photoshop and Illustrator as Imaging Tools

April 16, 2004 Friday, 9:30am-4:30pm (Whole day)
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DDB DETERGENT ALKYLATE CHEMICAL PLANT; STORAGE TANKS; MISC. SPARES & SCRAPS, ETC.
ON: THURSDAY 11TH MARCH 2004 - 10:30AM PROMPT

In over 400 lots including: -

DDB DETERGENT ALKYLATE CHEMICAL PLANT including - SULLAIR ARS Refrigerant Compressors; Asstd. Pumps; Induction Motors; Blowers; Insulated Pipelines; Large Qty. of Asstd. Installed Gate Valves; Ball Valves; Strainers; Flanges; Vertical & Horizontal Drums; BENZENE Recycle Drums; BENZENE Regeneration Dryer; Refrigerant Receiver; Alkylation Feed Dryers; Reactors; Acid Relief System; Scrubber; Regeneration Condenser; De-ethanizing Tower; Stabilizer Tower, HF Regeneration Still (Tower); BENZENE Recycle Still (Tower); Topping Still (Tower) & Rerun Still (Tower); Reboilers; Pre-heaters; Exchangers; Monel Tower; Condensers & Pipings, etc.
STORAGE TANKS - Carbon Steel Storage Tank 33m3 cap.; (2) Carbon Steel Storage Tank 162m3 cap.; Carbon Steel Storage Tank 161m3 cap.; Carbon Steel Storage Tank 32m3 cap.; Approx. 30 pcs. Cylinder Gas Tanks; Approx. 916 Kgs cap
MISC. SPARES & SCRAPS - Asstd. Unused Bearings; Check Valves; Ball Valves; Flanges; Tees; Elbows; Asstd. Electricals; Pressure Gauges; Pumps; Impeller Spares; Fittings; Asstd. Hand Tools; Fan Belts; Gasket; Oil Seals; Induction Motors; BI & GI Pipes; Steel Plates; Asstd. Metal Scraps, etc.

At.: LMG Chemicals Corporation - San Pascual, Batangas
On View: Wed. 10th March 2004 from 9:00am to 5:00pm &morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration),
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Visayas-Operation and Maintenance
Banilad Power Complex, Nasipit, Talamban C.C.
Tel No 346-3427, 346-9449

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANS-VIS-2004-02

Pre-bid Conference : March 16, 2004 @ 1:30PM at the District 2 Office
Bidding Dates : March 30, 2004 @ 2:00 PM at the District 2 Office

The National Transmission Corporation, Bids and Awards Committee – Visayas invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on (pls. see above schedule) to be opened publicly at Transco Bidding Room, Banilad Power Complex, Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City for the following requirements:

PR NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY /um	APPROVED BUDGET (ABC) (in pesos)
D2CB-2004-037	Repair of 50 MV AR shunt reactor at Talisay S/S, Daan Bantayan, Cebu	1 lot	20,000,000.00

All Bids should be within the Approved Budget of Contract to be Bid in order to qualify. Bidding will be a three envelope system on a per Purchase Requisition (PR) basis.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available starting **March 4, 2004**, at the Materials Management Services Section from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php500.00/schedule and presentation of TIN/Supplier's Number (DCE). Last day of issuance of bidding documents will be a day before the opening of bids.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations – A of Republic Act 9184. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of Transco.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of BAC's action.

For further inquiries, please contact the BAC Secretariat thru telephone number (032) 346-9449 or fax number (032) 346-3427.

(Sgd.) **OCTAVIO G. BRIONES**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–March 4 & 11, 2004)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following materials and equipment:

WOOD/CONCRETE POLES AND CONDUCTORS

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1) Accreditation requirements: (for submission to PBAC Chairman, Mrs. Blandina Y. Madamba)
   a) Company Profile
   b) Business Registration
   c) Business Permit
   d) BIR/VAT Certificate
   e) Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   f) List of Clients for a period of 3 years, if applicable
2) Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for the bid documents during the pre-bidding conference

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or, losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedule shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline of submission of requirements - March 19, 2004

(Sgd.) **Gabriel A. Tordesillas**
General Manager

Note: For the extension of laterals lines for the following areas:
1. Silangan, Allacapan, Cagayan
2. Tamalunog, Flora, Apayao
3. Zimay, Paddaya, Aparri
4. Zone 4, 5 & 6, Callao, Gonzaga

Source of fund: 2002 National Electrification Administration (NEA) Subsidy.

(PDI–Mar. 4 & 11, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE
Municipality of Sogod
- oOo -
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Municipality of Sogod, Southern Leyte through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) hereby invites all interested qualified Contractors to bid the hereunder-listed ARCDP projects funding in the amount of P10,218,935.30 for 10 barangays package of the Municipality of Sogod.

Name of Project : CONCRETING OF TEN (10) BARANGAY ROADS PACKAGE - 1, Brgys. Maac, Libas, Salvacion, Pandan, Mahayahay, San Isidro, Magatas, Javier, Suba and Dagsa.

Pre-bidding conference will be on March 8, 2004, 10:00 A.M. at the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Sogod, Southern Leyte.

Dropping and Opening of Bids will be on March 19, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Sogod, Southern Leyte.

The Municipality of Sogod reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive informally/deficiency therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For more details, please contact Engr. Antonino V. Cabardo or Engr. Ruel E. Altejar, at the Office of the Municipal Engineer/Mun. Planning and Development Coordinator with Tel. No. (053) 3822761.

(Sgd.) **ROSALINA T. GALDO**
Municipal Treasurer
BAC Chairman

(PDI – March 4 & 8, 2004)

OBITUARIES

"A great man is he
who does not lose his
family's heart"

on March 4, 2004, the 7th Death Anniversary of

BENITO LOZANO MERCADO, JR.

Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Sacred Heart	Morning Breeze, Caloocan	6:00 am
Our Lady of Lourdes	Kanlaon, Quezon City	5:30 am
St. Gabriel	Potrero, Malabon	6:00 am
Divine Mercy	Mapayapa 1, Quezon City	7:00 pm
OMI Chapel	Mapayapa 1, Quezon City	6:30 am
Resurrection	B.F. Homes, Parañaque	6:30 pm
St. Alphonsus Liguori	Magallanes Village	6:15 am
Queen of Peace Convent	Banawe, Quezon City	6:15 am

by his loving wife **Nenita Vergel de Dios**, children & grandchildren: **Rene, Angelica** and **Timothy; Glenn** and **Cholie Laya, Denise, David; Gary** and **Melissa Zamuco, Arianna, Roque; Ryan** and **Tricia Aguila, Vino, Sofia**; only daughter **Lidie Rose**; sisters **Cipriana Macalino** and **Teresita Lugue**; sisters-in-law **Cora Santos** and **Sr. Lilia Hilario, ICM**; nephews and nieces.

Prayers requested for the eternal repose of his soul.

ISMAEL S. DEVEZA

Passed away in the GRACE of our LORD
on March 1, 2004 at the age of 57.

His bereaved wife, **Evelyn Chaves-Deveza**; children **Alex, Bernie,** and **Charles**; brothers **Ronnie & Dennis**; sister **Susan**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial
at Sucat, Parañaque. Cremation
will be today, 4:00 p.m.
at Loyola Guadalupe, Makati after the
celebration of the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass
at Loyola Sucat, Parañaque.

LAWRENCE LO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 1, 2004 at the age of 51.

His bereaved wife **Ayrin**, his son **Rudolph**, daughter **Jan Paula, Jennie Rose** and **Jane**, brothers **Lo Chia Lin** and **Lo Chia Chin** and sister **Lo Chia Fung**, father **Lo Bing Sung**, nephew, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Imperial Chapel,
La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City.
Interment will be announced alter.

"In Christ all shall be made alive..."

Corinthians 15:22

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Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

Our cherished beloved Mommy

BRIGIDA SIBAL DE LOS REYES

"Aida"

Peacefully joined our Lord and our Daddy Francisco (Ikoy) on March 1, 2004 at the age of 80.

Her children **Dan** and **Leth**, **Yanina** and **Wolfgang Seeger**, **Reggie** and **Boy Nolasco**, **Alex** and **Nora**, **Cleo** and **Daniel Brion** and **Jenny** and **Cris Lagman**; grandchildren **Frans**, **Zenna**, **Dennis**, **Denise**, **John Patrick**, **Krista**, **JJ**, **PJ**, **Benji**, **Benjo** and **Nicole**; great grandchildren **Angel**, **Paul** and **Isaac** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at her residence at 109 Road 8, Pag-asa, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 6th of March 2004 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the Holy Mass at Our Lady of Hope Parish Church at 8:30 a.m.

"Come to Me... and I will give you rest."

ATTY. ONESIMO SALAZAR BAÑARES

Of Bacacay, Albay and Manila
(February 16, 1929 – March 2, 2004)

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife, **EDITHA CACANINDIN**; children and their spouses, **Victor** and **Ruth David**, **Mario** and **Ruby Sales**, **Ruben**, **Rose** and **Rodel**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 10, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Cremation will be on Friday, March 5, 2004 at 7:00 a.m.

TOMAS A. ARANDA, JR.

June 15, 1936 – March 2, 2004

His wife **Lilia**; children **Kim & Sonny**, **Kathy & Rommel**, **Karla & Henry**, **Karen & Kamy**; grandchildren **Gica**, **Gino**, **Patricia**, **Monica**, **Bea**, **Anita & Tom**; sisters **Erlinda**, **Fely**, **Eufrocina**, **Elsie**; brother **Edwin** request the pious reader to say a little prayer for the repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at the St. Louise Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City.

Interment schedule at Manila Memorial Park will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

CLAUDIO L. MIRASOL

of Cavinti, Laguna and Manila

Peacefully joined our Lord and his wife Nieves on February 26, 2004 at the age of 80 at New Jersey, U.S.A.

His loving children and children-in-law: **Jessie** and **Ming**; **Pot** and **Alex**; **Boyet** and **Lada**; **Gillet** and **Gerry**; **Beng** and **Ross**; grandchildren: **Corinth**, **Christian**, **Carissa**, **Angela**, **Mellison**, **Joanne**, **Michael**, **Jamie**, **Juliene**, **Giselle**, **Marie** and **Anthony**; brothers, sisters and in-laws **Gertrudo** and **Beatriz**; **Numer** (†) and **Lolly**; **Belen** and **Ben**; **Perrie** and **Philip** (†), **Flor** and **Lando**; relatives, loved ones and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 7, 2004 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapel.

All donations will go to the San Salvador Del Mundo Foundation, Cavinti, Laguna.

"For God so loved the World, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Ever-lasting life."

—John 3:16

AMBASSADOR AGUSTIN P. MAÑGILA, SR.

of Concepcion, Tarlac
passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 2, 2004.

His bereaved children **Agustin Jr. & Myrna**, **Agustin III (†) & Amy**, **Concepcion & Felix Jr.**, **Josephine & Glenn**, **Agustin IV & Lourdes**, **Agustin V**, **Joseph & Edith**, **Lucrecia II (Anya) & Nelson**, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Saturday, March 6, 2004 after the 9:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

ERLINDA "BABY" TABUENA-MARCELLANA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 29, 2004 at the age of 69.

*She is survived by her spouse, **Pedro Jr.**; children **Ma. Teresa**, **Pedro III**, and **Ma. Erlinda**; daughter-in-law **Analinda G. Guarin**; sons-in-law **Benito B. Artiaga, Jr.**, and **Jesus Tapia, Jr.**; sister **Ester**; other in-laws, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends.*

Her body lies in state at her residence in Guevarra Subdivision, Daraga, Albay.

Interment will take place on Monday, March 8, 2004 at the Garden of the Ressurrection Memorial Park, Kimantong, Daraga, Albay, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Our Lady of the Gate Parish Church.

A Tribute to Mom on her 10th Anniversary

Gloria del Rosario Tinio

January 12, 1925 – March 5, 1994

"One thing I ask of the Lord: This I seek:
To dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life"
-Psalm 27:4

We love and miss you, MOMMY. Your constant and loving presence in our lives has shaped us and made us the persons we are. Thank you for your wisdom, your patience & care, your loving guidance, thoughtfulness & concern. We go through life with you in our hearts. You continue to be our strength, our hope and inspiration.

Your loving husband, **RAMON "Titot"**

Children, **Vic & Girlie**, **Koichi & Marlie**, **Pop & Monette**, **Benjie & Kay**, **Nardy & Anna**, **Lillian**, **Alex & Doris**, **Ardie & Karen**

Grandchildren, **Chris & Mitch**, **Andrew & Nicole**, **Conrad**, **Marc**, **Denise**, **Yumi**, **Jorenz & Rhea**, **Jetri & Marie**, **Kricket**, **Benpy**, **Doby**, **Anda**, **Jibby & Charisse**, **Miguel (†)**, **Camille**, **Andrea**, **Keshia**, **Karl**, **Kim**, **Bea**, **Monina**

Great Grandchildren, **Keena**, **Joshua**

MASSES OFFERED ON MARCH 5, 2004:

Our Lady of Pentecost Parish Loyola Heights, Quezon City	6:30 pm
Sta. Maria della Strada Parish Katipunan Ave., Quezon City	6:00 am & 6:00 pm
Sto. Rosario Parish Angeles City	all masses
Immaculate Concepcion Parish Balibago, Angeles City	all masses

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Message of Thanks

The family and relatives of the late

LUCINA RAMOS REYES

who peacefully joined her Creator on January 26, 2004.

wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to all those who in various ways gave them comfort at the time of their bereavement.

A Thanksgiving Mass will be offered for your intentions on Sunday, March 7, 2004 at the Sto. Domingo Church in Q.C. at 9:00 am and at St. James's Church, Spanish Place in London at 7.00 p.m.

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BUSINESS

BSP optimistic peso to average at 54-56 to $1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is optimistic that the peso would still average at 54-56 to a US dollar by year's end, especially once the presidential elections are over.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday told reporters the monetary agency would stick to its fearless forecast even if the peso has now averaged above 56 to the dollar since the start of the year.

In January, the local currency averaged at 56.085, which further fell to 56.275:$1 in February. Yesterday, the peso closed at 56.20 to a dollar.

The BSP chief said even the foreign exchange market seemed to agree that the upside favoring the dollar was now limited.

The weakest level hit by the peso was 56.35, which was re-tested twice over the last two weeks. However, trading has been quiet over the last few days.

"In fact, they see that there is a greater risk of correction now," Buenaventura said.

He said the "fear factor" related to the upcoming elections was still the biggest variable weighing down on the local currency.

"It (assumption of 54-56) is still valid for now. It should improve in the second half. We feel this (current peso weakness) is all temporary," he said.

The BSP chief also said the monetary institution could afford to keep interest rates low especially now that the European central bank and the US Federal Reserve were expected to ease up their grip on liquidity.

Unless inflation rate accelerates, he said there was no pressure for the BSP to tighten its own key policy rates, which stand at 6.75 percent for borrowing and 9 percent for lending.

He said the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate was likely to stay only slightly above the BSP's own policy rates.

Dollar-hoarding by spot foreign exchange traders was also tempered by the BSP's ongoing initiatives to crack down on banks' sources of liquidity.

Buenaventura has likewise maintained that the BSP was not running out of options and would be ready to exercise these when necessary.

When the peso is fast depreciating, the central monetary institution either sells dollars or resorts to monetary tightening measures to siphon off excess liquidity that can be used to speculate in favor of the greenback.

Aside from threatening to raise the reserve requirement on banks, the BSP has also started probing banks' investments in bonds and other debt instruments as well as trading account securities on suspicions that banks may be using these accounts to raise liquidity for dollar-hoarding activities.

As the country's balance-of-payment position incurred a shortfall of $595 million in January—indicating more foreign exchange outflow than inflows—analysts believed the BSP would prefer to use monetary policy rather direct market intervention.

The BSP chief said he expected the peso to appreciate starting April as inflow from exports strengthen. He earlier said the peso should be trading at about 53-54 against the US dollar at present if the country were not hounded by political risks due to the May presidential elections.

Exports to EU seen to increase

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EXPORTS to the European Union are seen to increase following the European Commission's move to put up an on-line help desk for developing countries.

In a press statement, the Commission said local exporters could avail themselves of the help desk—accessed through the websites *http://export.help.cec.eu.int or http://www.delphl.cec.int*—free of charge.

The Commission said the first phase of the help desk provided data on EU import tariffs and preferences, trade statistics, relevant rules on origin and customs documentation.

"The system will increase the benefit for developing countries regarding the terms of access to the EU market that they now have as well as the improved terms that are being negotiated both in the World Trade Organization and at bilateral or regional (terms)," the agency said.

On Monday, Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aquino called on local exporters to diversify their markers as the EU recently announced that it has extended by another 10 years its low-to-zero tariff program for developing countries.

The EU's generalized system of preferences (EU GSP) offers lower tariffs or completely duty-free access to products from about 180 developing countries and territories.

The program operates on a 10-year cycle with the last one scheduled to end this year.

Products that qualify for the tariff reductions under the EU GSP include edible products of animal origin, edible vegetables and nuts, oils and waxes, certain clothing and footwear, glass, and ceramic handicraft.

Aquino noted that the country has yet to maximize the benefits of the EU program since the availment rate by local exporters amounted to only 43 percent in 2002.

The Philippines exported 7.3 billion euros worth of products to the EU in 2002.

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MOTORING

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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

LYNX "attacking" a corner

Learning to race now cheaper than a sleek cell phone

By Tessa R. Salazar

YOU still think racing is the sole domain of the ultra rich? Not in this neck of the tracks.

If you think you have to be a gorgeous and affluent speedster with lots of either foreign blood or moolah to spare to gain access to a respectable racing school, the Tuason Racing School of racing champ JP Tuason will knock you back to your senses.

Just P11,000 will put you in the company of Ford Lynx Cup racers Dahlia Guerrero (WRX owner, racing enthusiast), Pia Boren (former karting champ), and celebrity racer Dominic Ochoa. Heck, Dominic, a known cell network endorser, would even tell you that amount is cheaper than the cell phone he carries with him.

2-day crash course

That amount enticed this writer to try the road less (but more swiftly) traveled, and enroll in this two-day crash course in racing, the "crash" word here being figurative, of course.

The classroom was on a paved circuit, and more applicable to everyday driving. But we were doing anything but everyday driving. Here, we negotiated tighter corners approaching three-digit speeds.

The two-day course entitled me and five other enrollees to almost 40 laps around the Batangas Racing Circuit using the school's pool of Ford Lynxes. Except for some modified body and suspension touches such as the roll cage at the back and sides, the four-point seatbelts in front and a tuned-in suspension, these Lynxes were stock cars powered by 1.6-liter engines.

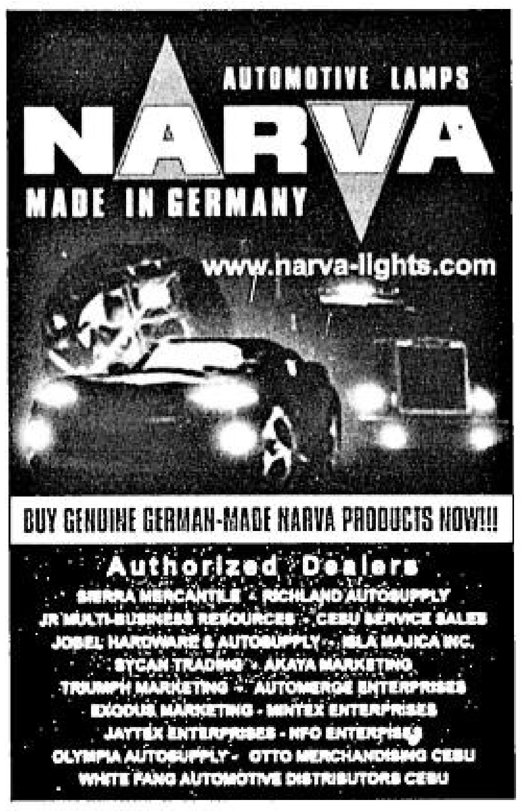
Fine-tuning human skills

Nothing very spectacular there, because this time, the school was fine-tuning human skills.

The two days of classes were a mix of indoor lectures on racing theories (trust us, there is a science to racing than just flooring it) and applying those theories with repeated laps. The body had to be as conditioned as the mind in this school.

We studied and applied proper braking in a circuit car, turn-in points (there are specific points on the track where it

LEARNING/ C2



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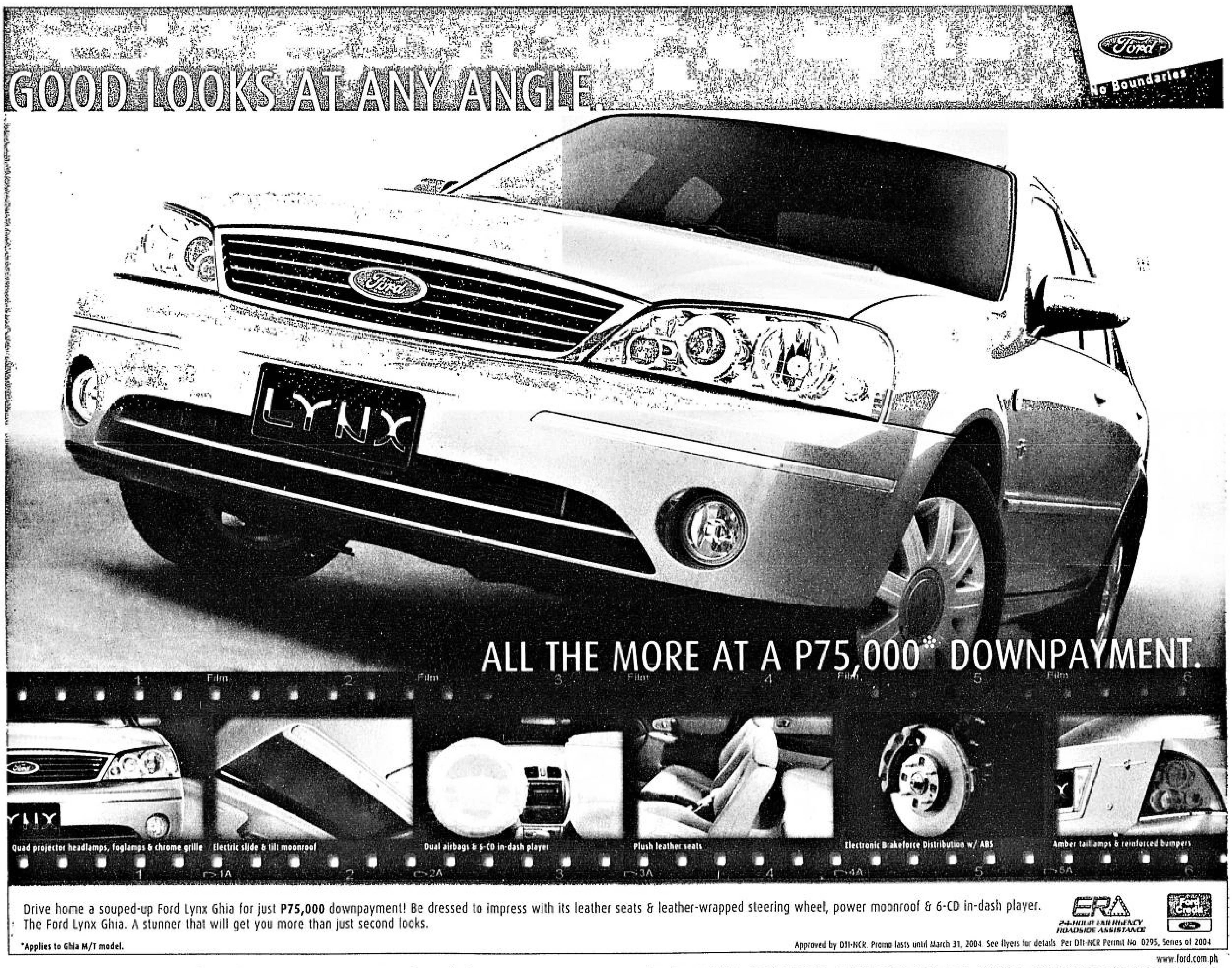

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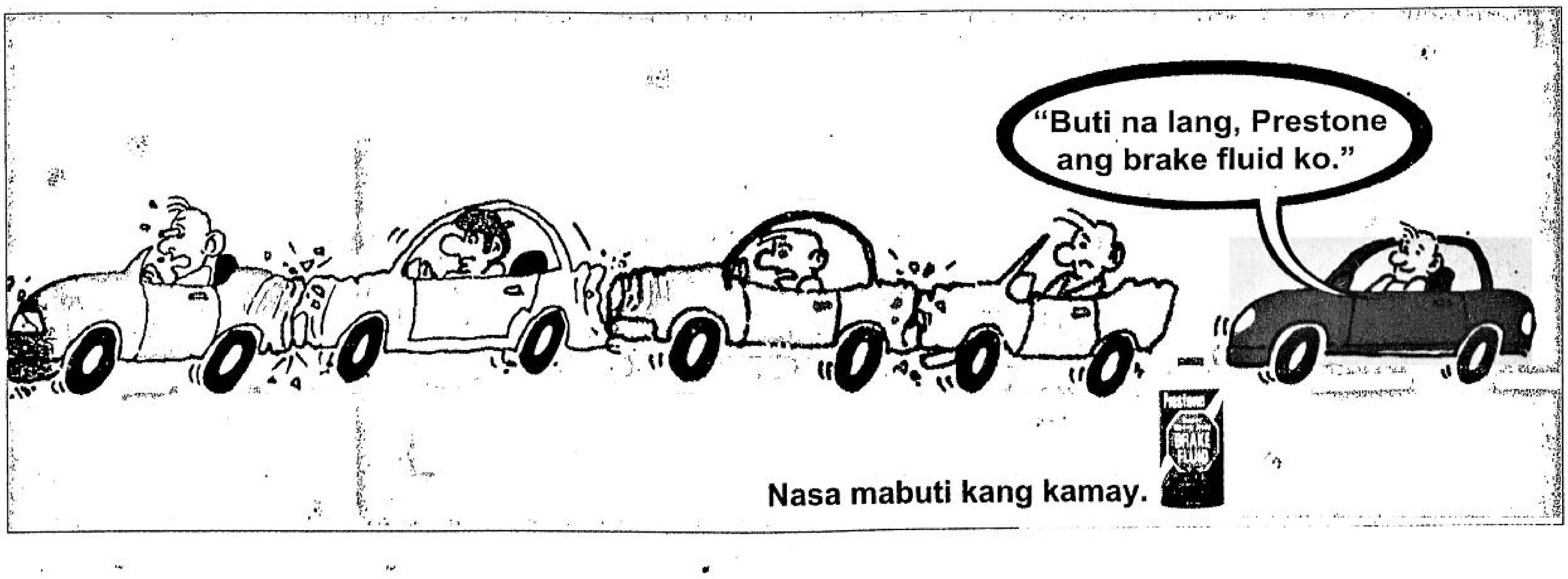


"Buti na lang, Prestone ang brake fluid ko."
Prestone
Nasa mabuti kang kamay.

Dirty air

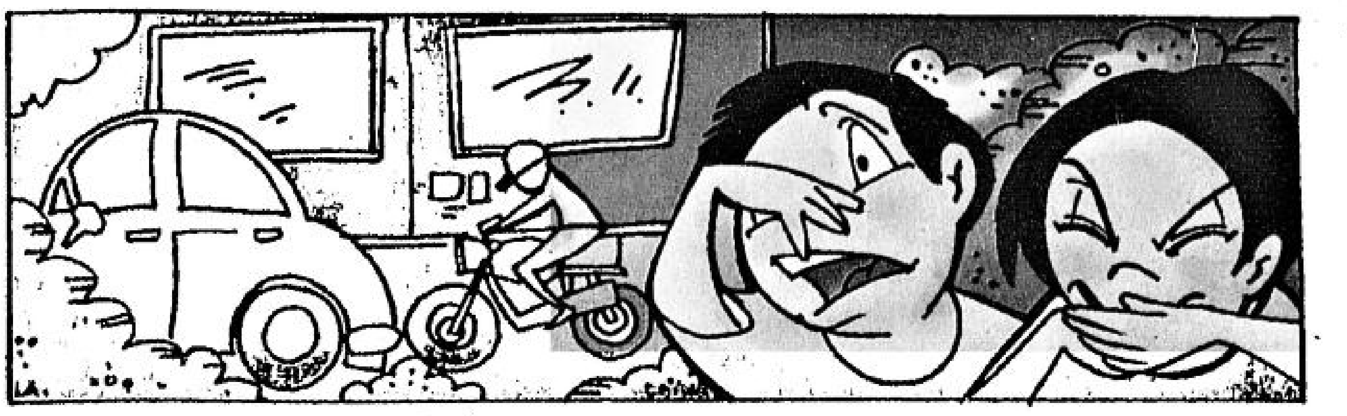
METRO Manila has 14 million people, 3.5 million motor vehicles, over 200,000 two-stroke tricycles/motorcycles and a Clean Air Act that cannot be fully implemented because of lack of funds and political will. No wonder Metro Manila is the second most polluted megacity in the world after Mexico City. If not for the typhoons that wash away the air pollutants, Metro Manila would probably hold the dubious honor of being first. By 2011, warns one environmentalist, Metro Manila will no longer be able to sustain life if the current levels of air pollution continue or get worse. Other urban centers are also suffering from dirty air. Baguio, Cebu and Davao are the most polluted cities in the Philippines after Metro Manila.

Motorists tend to ignore efforts to clean up the air although 80 percent of air pollution is generated by mobile sources: cars, jeepneys, buses, motorcycles. Motorists should consider the impact of air pollution. In a draft policy paper on the Clean Air Act (CAA), Dinna Louise C. Dayao cited the annual toll of air pollution on the health of people in Metro Manila as revealed by the Philippines Environment Monitor two years ago: 1) Over 2,000 people die prematurely every year; 2) Over 9,000 people suffer from chronic bronchitis; 3) Nearly 51 million respiratory cases (averaging five to six times a year per person afflicted) were reported in Metro Manila.

COPD

The incidence of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) was highest among jeepney drivers in 2002, affecting 32.5 percent of them, a study of the University of the Philippines College of Public Health disclosed. Even the drivers of air-conditioned buses were not spared by air pollution, as they ranked second among those afflicted with COPD at 16.4 percent. This means that neither can drivers of air-conditioned private cars escape the deadly effects of dirty air.

Victims of COPD suffer from nose and throat irritation, chronic cough with phlegm, wheezing and shortness of breath aside from sustaining irreversible lung damage. Doctors say that emphysema, asthma and chronic bronchitis can be made worse by air pollution and that COPD victims are more susceptible to pulmonary tuberculosis. Hydrocarbons and particulates in exhaust emissions may cause cancer. A new Department of Health finding is that air pollution also affects babies in utero, causing premature birth. Not only does air pollution harm our health, it also damages property and the environment (trees, plants, lakes and animals), threatens long-term productivity, reduces quality of life and discourages tourism and foreign investments, Ms Dayao points out.



ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

Help

So what can private car owners do to help clean up the air? One way is to keep your car in top condition. Follow your owner's manual on recommendations for maximum economic efficiency and replace the air filter and oil regularly. Another way is to report smoke-belching vehicles to Bantay Usok by texting "Usok (space) plate number (space) location sighted (space) vehicle description" to 2366.

Owners, drivers and operators of two-stroke motorcycles and tricycles can do their share by practicing proper maintenance. The carbon monoxide emission of a two-stroke motorbike will exceed the CAA's maximum limit if its driver uses "takal" instead of quality 2T oil to cut costs. "Takal," which is made of used engine oil or petroleum wastes from four-stroke engines of cars, jeeps, trucks and other heavy equipment, contains noncombustible materials that damage the engine and produce cancer-causing dioxins.

The teachers and officials of schools in whose vicinity tricycles operate should take a leaf from Ma. Teresa M. Oliva of the Environmental Sciences Institute of Miriam College in Quezon City. Ms Oliva organized "Usapang Trike," a multisectoral project that educates tricycle drivers and operators on the benefits and methods of proper maintenance, such as not using "takal." Aside from the drivers and academicians, the association of motorcycle manufacturers, Petroleum Institute of the Philippines and government agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) participate in "Usapang Trike."

CAA

The CAA, incidentally, has made some headway although the promised P750 million funding for the first year of its implementation never materialized. (A loan from the Asian Development Bank saved the day for the CAA.) Principally authored by Rep. Nereus Acosta (1st District, Bukidnon) and enacted in 1999, the CAA is so thorough that Acosta was invited to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and more recently to Mexico City to speak on it. Because of the CAA, leaded gasoline was phased out nationwide in December 2000. The lowering of aromatics in unleaded gasoline to 45 percent maximum took effect in January 2000 and to 35 percent in January 2003. Also in January 2003, benzene in unleaded gasoline was reduced from 4 percent to 2 percent. In January 2004, the sulfur content of industrial and automotive diesel fuel was scheduled to be lowered from 0.20 percent to 0.05 percent but this was deferred by DENR Secretary Elisa Gozun.

By the way, as early as September 2003, five oil companies—City Oil, Eastern Petroleum, Getty, Seaoil and Unioil—began selling the first CAA-compliant diesel fuel.

Now you know where to buy diesel fuel.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: There is no short cut to anywhere worth going.

BRC is the training ground.

Learning . . .

From page C1

is best to apply brakes before turning), racing lines and apexes (the slowest part of a bend and the point where the car is nearest to the inside of the corner for optimum curve speed using the least distance), blip throttle (heel-and-toe pedaling), proper downshifting, preventing oversteering and understeering, launching and overtaking in a circuit.

It was like learning to drive all over again, in fast forward mode.

What's more, the school let us view exclusive racing videos previously available only in US racing schools.

But be warned, the small fee does not necessarily increase your self-esteem in racing right away. I myself wanted to give up after the first day. I had been a driver for 14 years, and pretty confident of my so-called skills on the dog-eat-dog streets of Metro Manila. But on the BRC, the teachers are an exacting lot. It was either I stepped too hard or too soft on the brakes. Or I turned too early or too late, or I couldn't twist my foot enough to get the heel-and-toe right.

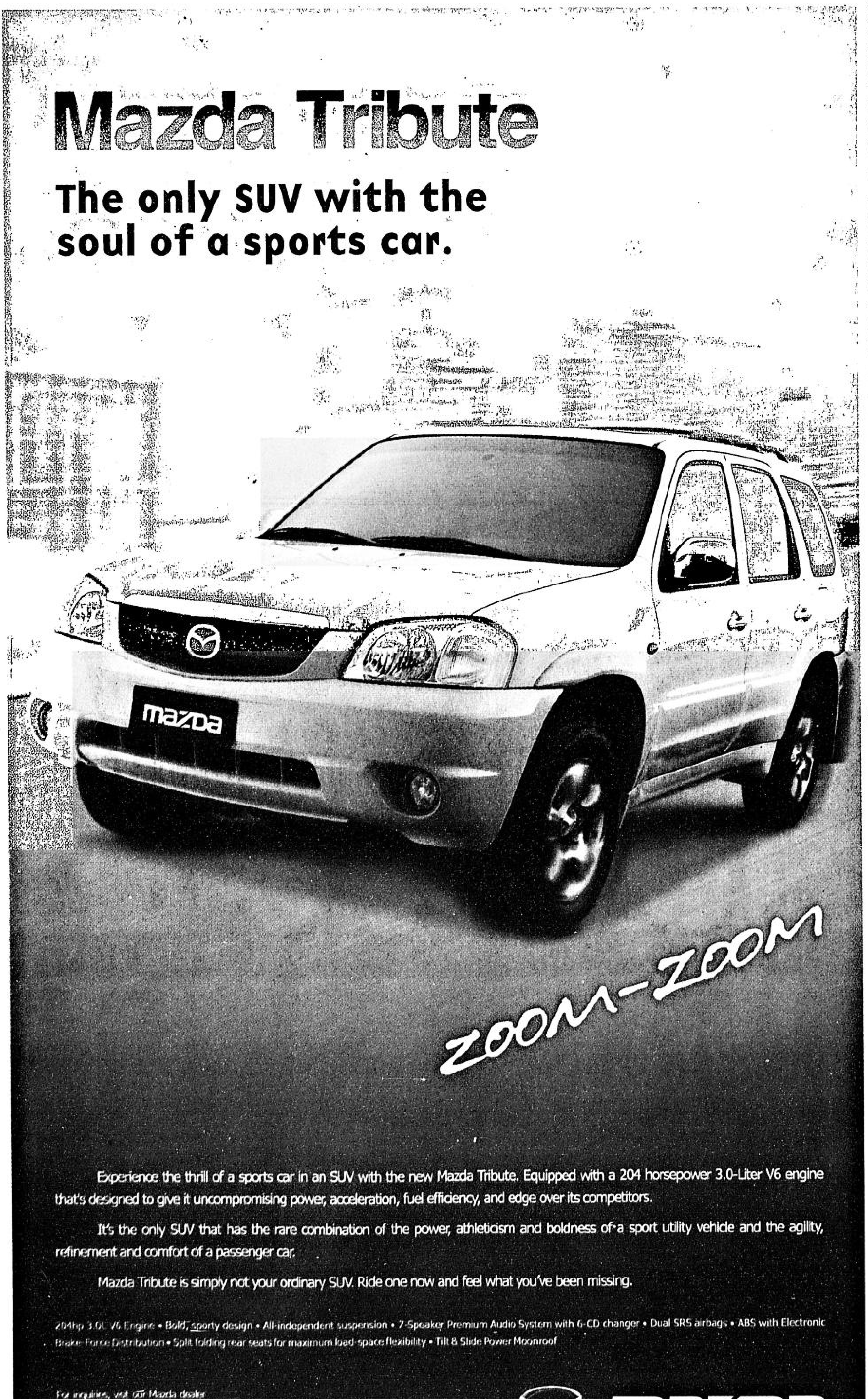
As much as they were demanding, the teachers knew how to crack my coconut. I was asked to brake gently in a method of "progressive" braking—slowly transferring weight to the front of the car and unbalancing the car in the least amount. The idea here was to master the art of braking so you could avoid locking up tires or spinning the car. This technique saves hundredths of a second in corner braking, and in competition, that is a substantial difference.

And we practiced this technique repeatedly, one-on-one. Imagine, keeping in mind all those instructions while you have to apply brakes at 80 kph and avoid hitting the line a few meters away is not easy. The idea here was to be masters of speed, but we had to be masters of deceleration as well.

Another tricky lesson was downshifting, and it wasn't just simply stepping on the clutch and shifting to lower gear. Before putting the car in lower gear, we had to make sure that the engine speed was similar to the road speed the car was traveling at. And we did this by "blipping the throttle."

This was where the heel-and-toe technique came in handy. We rolled the outside edge of the right foot onto the gas pedal and exerted pressure on it while still applying the brakes.

LEARNING/ C3



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Toyota's jewel in Mindanao

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—For the record, I "modemed" this column at the offices of Toyota-Cagayan de Oro through its president, Betty Lu. I never thought I could find a non-Manila dealer so helpful and hospitable like Toyota Cagayan de Oro City.

By "modeming" this piece to the INQUIRER offices in Manila, it is understood to mean that I filed it through a telephone patch using my laptop. The wonders of modern technology at work, fellas. Anywhere in the world, one can file a story or column or anything through a laptop/computer for as long as there is a telephone line available.

And of course, you need someone to assist you, too, to be able to get through your intended destination/receiver. This time around, Toyota-Cagayan de Oro's Betty Lu was the person of the hour.

* * *

But I could not have done what I've done without the help of Toyota Motor Philippines' Ariel de Jesus. It was Ariel who facilitated it all; he introduced me—by long distance telephone—to the Toyota-Cagayan de Oro offices through Madam Betty Lu.

I'm not surprised when Toyota-Cagayan de Oro came to the rescue. This Mindanao Toyota dealership owns a track record that is the envy of many other Toyota dealerships around the archipelago.

For one, Toyota-Cagayan de Oro was recently chosen first runner-up in the annual Toyota Dealer Awards, the highest achievement thus far won by a non-Manila dealer.

For another, Betty Lu's company was the best in 2003 in after-sales service among the nation's Toyota dealers. Likewise, it won the Service & Parts Department award that same year.

Congratulations and keep 'em coming, Madam Betty Lu. May your tribe increase, indeed.

* * *

Carito Villaroman, the many-time world junior golf champion in San Diego, California, did not win the DHL 88th Philippine Open on Sunday at Riviera's Langer Course in Silang, Cavite.

But he won more than a consolation prize: he drove home a brand-new Mitsubishi Lancer GLS without paying a single centavo.

How did he do it?

By scoring a hole-in-one at No. 4 of Riviera's Langer course on the first day of the DHL-Philippine Open.

* * *

As I keep mentioning here, Mitsubishi has always been a perennial sponsor of the Philippine Open, the country's premier golf tournament. This year, the tournament drew 159 players coming from 18 countries.

From the early '80s, Mitsubishi has been donating a vehicle through hole-in-one prizes staked in both the Celebrity Pro-Am and the tournament proper. Until three years ago, the champion used to be rewarded with a brand-new Mitsubishi vehicle. The practice of giving away a Mitsubishi vehicle has been discarded to make way for Mitsubishi's generous act of adding P1 million to the prize kitty of the Philippine Open.

When Carito made his hole-in-one, I asked Thelma Lozano, the now-retired Mitsubishi executive but who is still very active in the promotions and special projects programs of the giant Mitsubishi car company, she said: "Very happy. At least Carito will finally drive a Mitsubishi car."

Mel Dizon, the senior vice president of Mitsubishi, just can't let go of Thelma—for good reason. When Thelma's into a job or any special project, she really does it so well. Too bad really that she's not officially connected anymore with Mitsubishi—due to age reasons. Even Arlan Reyes sighs these days when Thelma's name is mentioned. "Talagang super sipag iyan, e," said Arlan, a product of Ateneo de Manila from grade school up to college.

* * *

The Isuzu D-Max has topped the pickup sales in January. That was stunning, since D-Max was introduced to the market only three months ago.

As per records of the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TMA), the Isuzu D-Max pickup sold 184 units for an overwhelming 41.2 percent of the market share. UMC was second in the segment by selling 100 units of Nissan Frontier (22.4 percent), while Toyota was third with 68 Hilux units sold (15.2 percent).

Launched in the Philippines in November 2003, the Isuzu D-MAX has been No. 1 in Thailand since its introduction in May 2002.

* * *

Already, D-Max has sold over 100,000 units in its first year since its world debut in Thailand, igniting an Isuzu D-Max phenomenon throughout the country. Amazingly, it has become the best-selling vehicle ever, where no other vehicle—including passenger cars—has reached the 100,000 mark so fast in so short a time.

IPC president Toru Koyasu said: "Isuzu vehicles have been selling well on the merits of high product quality, in particular its advanced direct injection diesel engines, endearing the Isuzu brand to the Filipino customers."

Likewise, the Isuzu N-Series, has surpassed its competitors in the light duty truck sales race with sales of 65 units, garnering 67.0 percent of the market share. The N-Series has been constantly dominating the light-duty truck category for 5 consecutive years now.

Here's a glass then to Isuzu's great team that include Ms Myrna Gonzales and Art Balmadrid. Your style of management—making your customers more happy than when they've bought an Isuzu vehicle—has really been doing wonders for the IPC.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Again, I beg you to ignore bus drivers who drive without any regard for the safety of others. Avoid them always. You might just lose your temper and that could lead to a confrontation which could be fatal. Instead of "distancia lang amigo," use "pasencia lang amigo."

FROM LEFT are instructors JP, Dave, Alex and Mike.

Learning to race . . .

From page C2

Comprising TRS are five racing mechanics, three assistants and racing instructors JP Tuason (Asian Formula driver, former Karter of the Year and National champion of Formula Rotax 125) and Mike Tuason (International Continental Class A champ 1997, and the first Filipino to win the Asia Zone Karting Challenge 1997), both sons of racing legend Arthur Tuason. Alex Morales, Dave Tinio and manager Janet Tuason also make up the team.

The TRS group considers racing not as a glamorous sport but a fun and useful exercise any Filipino with a driver's license can excel in.

So, we knew it was useful and scientific. But where was the fun part? It came mostly in the second day, when we threaded the three best racing lines at the BRC: the turn-in point, the apex and the exit points. Novices would initially have to depend on the racing lines instructors mapped out for them. Later on, however, as they developed the skill, the drivers were able to adopt their own lines according to their "comfort" zones.

The highlight of the course was the fun and friendly head-to-head competition among the students to finish things off. We were asked to launch the car and do eight laps with our competitors and overtake before, not during, the tight corners. By this time, I felt like a real pro.

Before JP handed out our certificates of completion, he urged us to continue lap practices every now and then. The lessons would be useless if we forgot all about it eventually.

Students' profile

In our group, there was an expat, some teenagers and young professionals. There were also female students. In the previous session, a 55-year-old mother said she enrolled after seeing her son, a professional, improved in driving after undergoing the course.

But will everyone make a career out of racing after this? I doubt it. Enrolling for P11,000 to learn how to race is one thing, but coming up with millions to fuel a racing career is another.

Increased level of confidence

Perhaps, the more important and lasting effect a racing school has on its students is that increased level of confidence combined with patience (we become more forgiving on the road, after all, we get all the speed we want on the tracks).

Just in case we made a go for competitive racing, the certificates entitled us to apply for a racing license in C Circuits. That's a start.

If you think you already have what it takes, to get a free course at the BRC, try vying for the Top Driver position in video competitions at Timezone Glorietta on March 20 at 1 p.m. Register there for P150. Your skills behind the simulated wheel can put you inside the kart for actual brick-and-mortar competitions.

After that, if you survive on top, it's off to the BRC. A seat at the Ford Lynx Cup novice competition would mean a scholarship for one race season.

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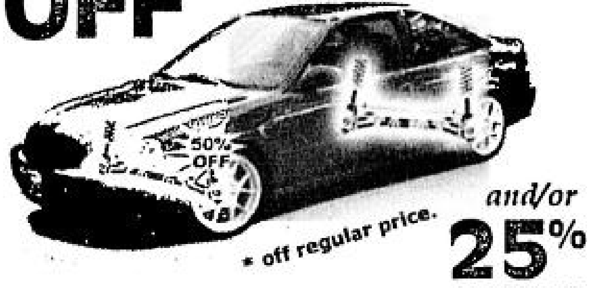
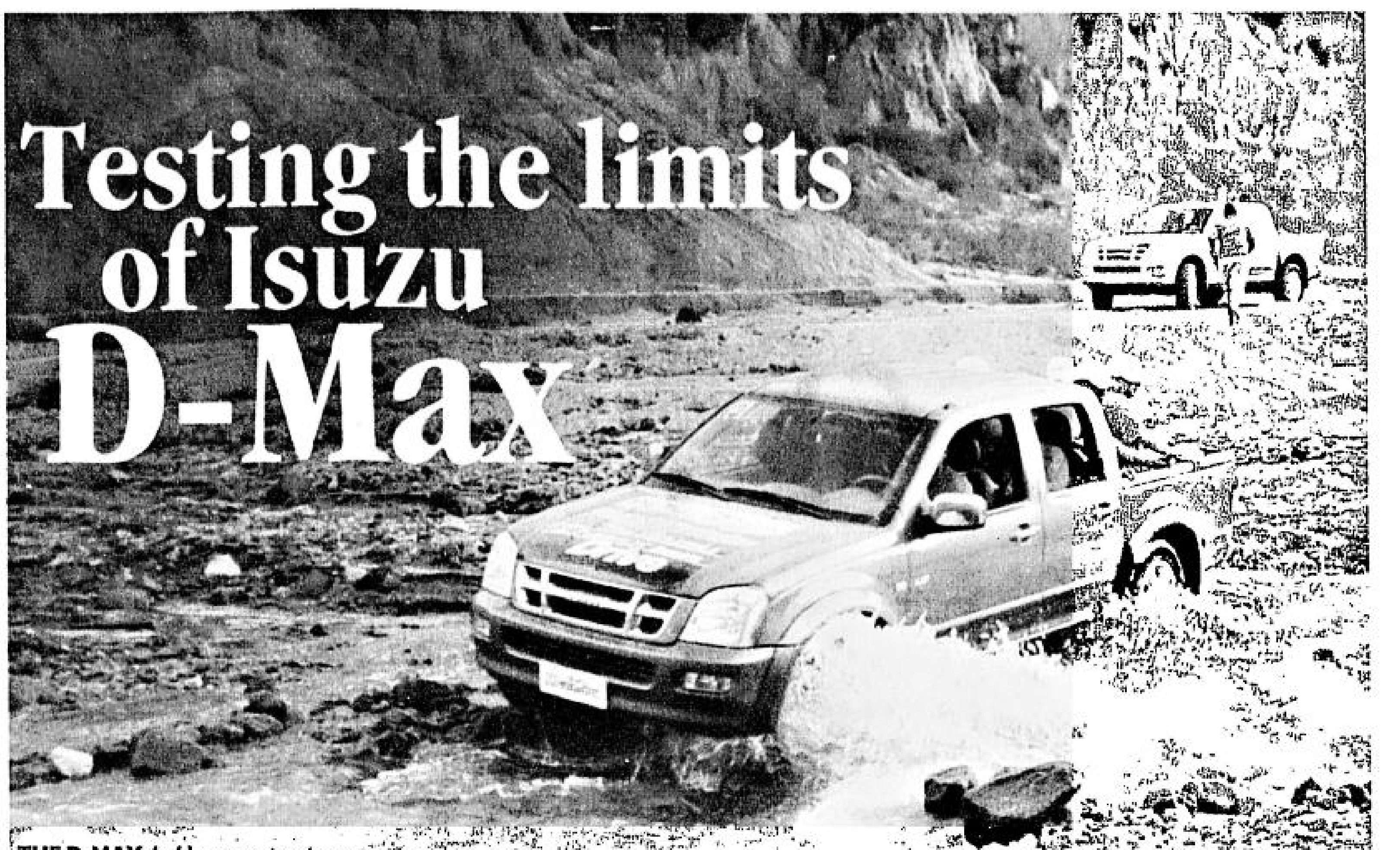




Testing the limits of Isuzu D-Max

THE D-MAX 4x4 loves water, too.

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

WANT to know how tough your new vehicle is? There's no better place to find this out than driving through the rough terrain of Mt. Pinatubo, a favorite off-road destination located 100 kilometers northwest of Manila.

Here you will find a desert-like landscape dotted with endless bed of rocks and a shallow river sandwiched between towering walls of slowly eroding lahar.

It was April of 2002 when Isuzu last visited this place to test its four-wheel-drive Isuzu Fuego Sport. This time around, the Japanese automaker brought in the newest member of its vehicle lineup: the D-Max 4x4 pickup.

"I guess this is our way of proving our claim that the D-Max 4x4 is a real toughie when faced with overwhelming challenge like what we can find here in Pinatubo," said Myrna Gonzales, Isuzu Philippines senior manager for corporate affairs.

Tough power plant

The D-Max did not fail the group of media people who participated in this Isuzu event dubbed "Mt. Pinatubo Revisited: The Isuzu D-Max(imum) Drive."

With three new squeaky clean and filled up D-Maxes (diesel courtesy of Total Philippines), the group drove early in the morning toward Barangay Sta. Juliana in Capas, Tarlac, the start of the trip to Mt. Pinatubo.

Heavy rains and strong winds can change Mt. Pinatubo's landscape overnight so we let one Angeles City Four Wheelers Club member lead us though the trip while at the same time warn us of unexpected traps along the way.

Fortunately, no such incident happened as we drove up to Mt. Pinatubo via the rough-and-tumble terrain of almost dry O'Donnell River.

High power output

No matter what obstacle that came our way, our three pickups managed to hurdle us out.

The D-Max gets its toughness from its 3.0 liter 4JH1-TC turbo intercooler, which provides the pickup high power output.

Its maximum power of 130 hp and torque of 28.5 kg m (30 kg m in automatic) are just some of its features you will truly appreciate during this driving situation.

Add the pickup's long wheelbase (3.05 m), big tires (R16), high ground clearance (22.5 cm), and heavy-duty skid plate, the D-Max 4x4 is one vehicle ready for anything off road.

1-km walk

After tormenting our D-Maxes for over two hours, it was our turn to torture ourselves as we trek up the remaining 11 km going to Mt. Pinatubo's 2-km wide crater.

Upon reaching the edge of the crater (about 1,485 meter from sea level) we were all tired yet ready to take a dip in its jewel blue crater lake just like what we did the first time we got here two years ago.

Sadly, the crater lake's waters isn't as inviting as before as it had turned blackish brown, like somebody had just poured tons of espressos in it.

Swimming was absolutely out of the question.

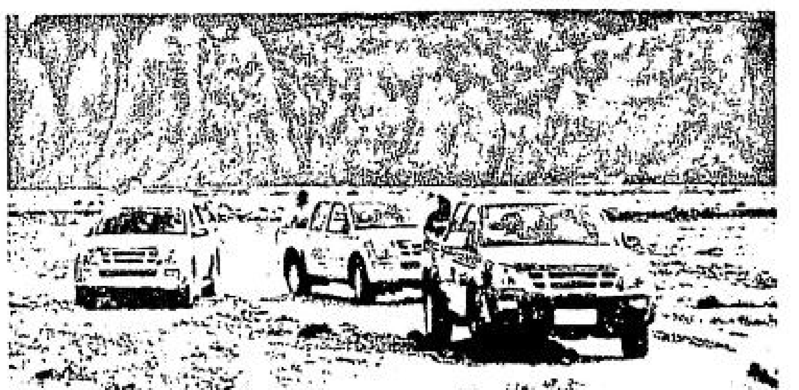
First observed in January

According to the natives in the area, the color transformation was first observed in January.

Algae and lichens as well as tadpoles and leeches, observed earlier by volcanologists, were the primary suspects of the discoloration, thus prompting the Tourism Bureau Office in the area to issue an advisory prohibiting any water activities (no renewed volcanic activity suspected, however).

Nevertheless, our short stay at the crater's edge never prevented us from enjoying the rest of the morning.

After regaining our strength, we headed back to our campsite, to our waiting D-Maxes, this time more convinced of their brute strength and dependable package.



BRAVING the Mars-like terrain of Mt. Pinatubo

THE CRATER lake that welcomed us at the summit is no longer jewel blue but is still a breathtaking scene.

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205/65R15	2,361	195/60R14	2,113
185/60R14	1,852	185/70R14	1,967
195/60R15	2,239	185/65R15	2,063
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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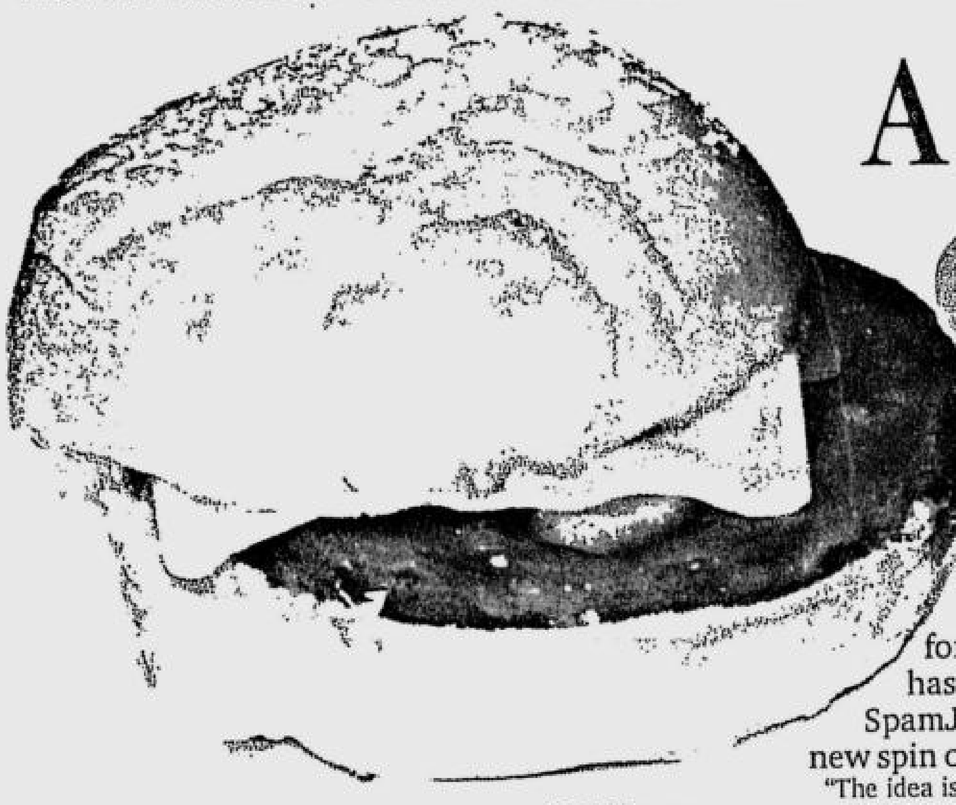
A Pinoy favorite gets exclusive treatment



SPAM Burger

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

WHEN it comes to traditional comfort food, Mom suddenly has some stiff competition. SpamJam Café is putting a new spin on a family favorite.

"The idea is global comfort with high-end appeal," says entrepreneur Philip Abadilla, managing director of Store Café Enterprises, Inc., which put up SpamJam Café together with Purefoods-Hormel. "It's a retro look at classic entrees."

Popular

A certified Spam luncheon meat fanatic, Abadilla says he broached the idea of having an outlet exclusively for this luncheon meat to Purefoods-Hormel, the local partner of Hormel Foods USA. Thus, SpamJam Café was born.

"Spam's popularity is evident when Filipino *balikbayans* bring it home as *pasalubong* to relatives and friends," he says. Because of the Pinoy's affinity and passion for good food, Hormel chose the Philippines as the venue for the pilot launching of

A PINOY/ D3

The Philippines is the venue for the pilot launching of SpamJam Café

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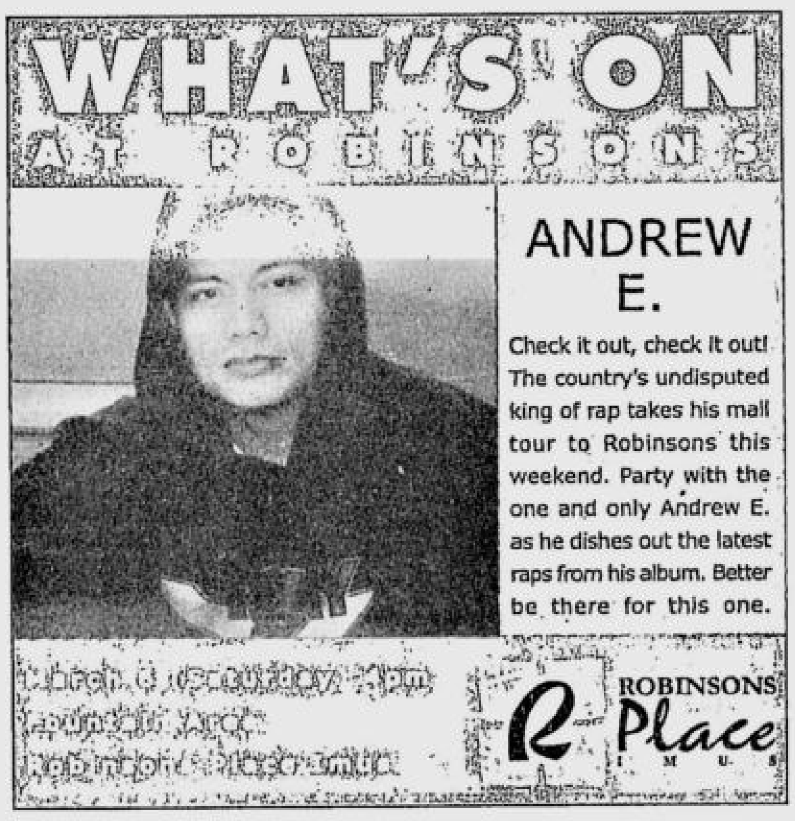
WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

ANDREW E.

Check it out, check it out! The country's undisputed king of rap takes his mall tour to Robinsons this weekend. Party with the one and only Andrew E. as he dishes out the latest raps from his album. Better be there for this one.

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Culinary enthusiasts will have a great time attending this year's Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center workshop classes. New course curriculum for extensive learning experience has been introduced and ample time on hands-on workshops has been devoted for a more in-depth understanding of each course. Enrol now.

Catering: Mar. 6 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Technical and legal aspects of operations, costing, quantification, portion control, licensing requirements, proper hygiene and sanitation and safety aspects in food preparation, buffet table setup flow and sourcing. Actual preparation of catering dishes such as Morcon, Baked Macaroni, All-meat Paella, Galantina, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, special fried rice and dessert. P1,750

Watering and Bartending Basic: March 10-12 (Wed-Fri) 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Workshop on waitering etiquettes, table setup, dining service standards, napkin folding, types of wine glasses, mixing and serving of drinks, classification of wines and spirits. P2,000

Pizza Workshop: Mar. 13 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For home and commercial business. Lecture on technology of making pizza crust, toppings, and sauces with actual production costing and portion control. P1,500

Korean Cooking: Mar. 20 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 3 kinds of kimchi, Chap-che (Noodle dish), Pajun (omelet), Bi-bim Bap (hot mixed rice), Bul ko kee and Milchi. P800.

Restaurant Operations: Mar. 26 & 27 (Fri-Sat) 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. 2-day full of intensive seminar to a profitable business operations with emphasis on cost control, food costing and pricing and all the aspects from labor to menu planning. P3,000.

Fastfood Bestsellers: April 3 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Chicken Caldereta, Pork Estofado, Lomi, Fresh Eggroll, Embutido, Chicken Pork BBQ 3-way and Special Palabok. P800.

Barchow (A salute to the graduates!): Apr. 3 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Baked Tahong, Hot Shrimp Gambas, Tuna Balls, Fish Kinilaw, Pork Sisig, Nilasing na Hipon, Calamares, Mushroom in Garlic Butter, Chicken Feet. P800.

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Cake Decorating (Basic): Mar. 6 & 13 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating; coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making, bunching and motif, and basic fondant. Free decorating tips. P3,000

Cooking 2: Mar. 9-12 (T-F) 1:30 - 6 p.m. Review of basic culinary principles. Introduction to the cuisines of the world, menu planning, culinary arithmetic, food hygiene, sanitation and safety standards in food preparations. Actual workshop on Asian, Western and European dishes. Graduation cocktails. P4,500.

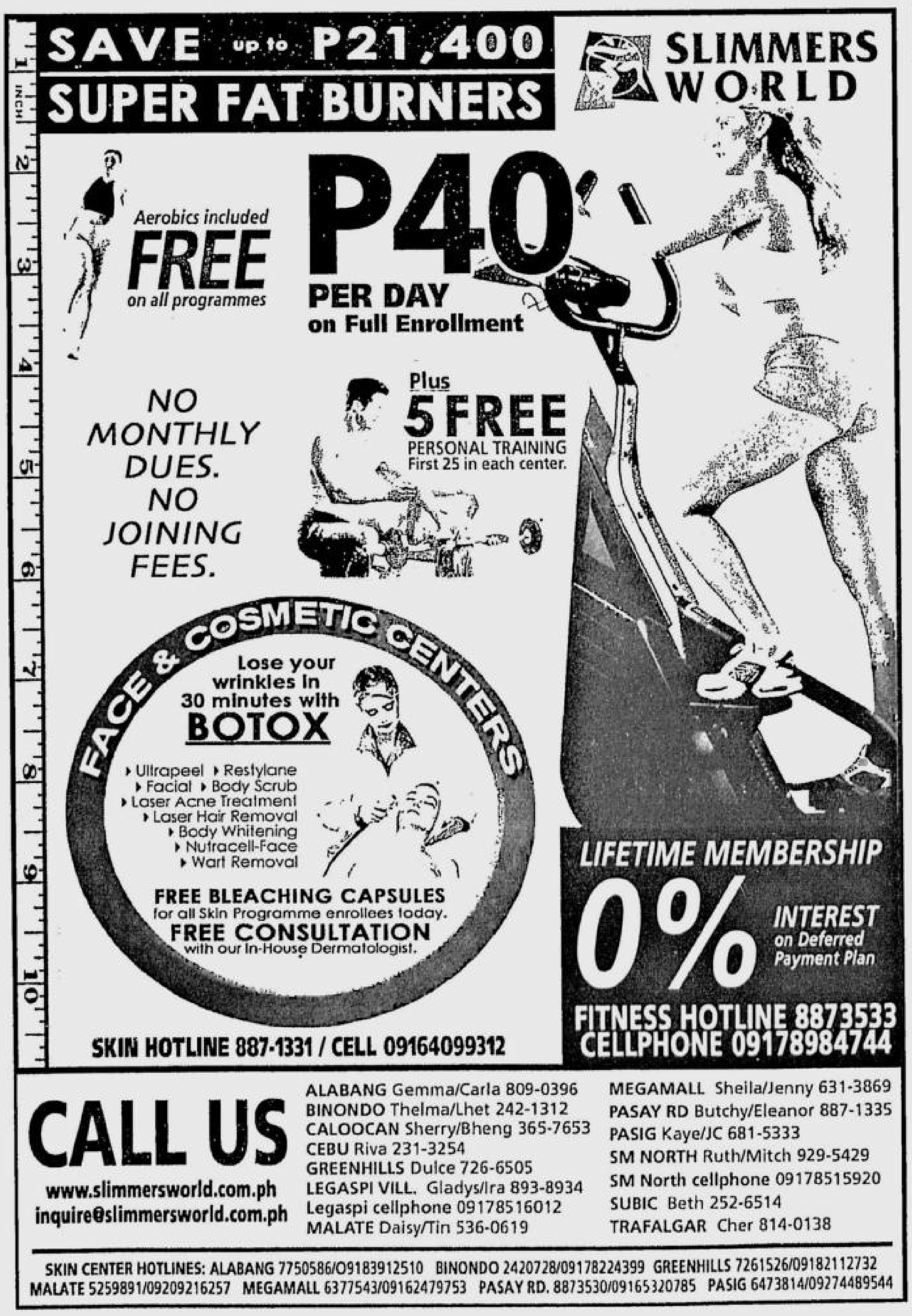
Baking II (Advanced): Mar. 20 & 27 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Baking ingredients and their functions, baker's percentage/math, Actual preparation of specialty cakes, pastries and bakery products. Bonus feature: baking magic with prepared mixes. P3,000.

Baking I (Basic): March. 23-26 or April 13 -16 (T-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Basics of baking including techniques applied to the preparation of pies, quickbreads, cakes and more. P2,500 with free cookbook.

Cooking I (Basic): Mar. 30,31, April 1-2 or April 20-23(Tue-Fri) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Proper Hygiene; Sanitation and Safety; Nutrition and Nutritional Cooking; Stocks, Soups and Sauces and its 1001 application to poultry, fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables, common herbs and spices; Purchasing; Marketing and Proper Storage; Menu Planning; Simple Garnish and Plate Presentation. Plus actual cooking workshop on the preparation of dishes from appetizer to dessert. P3,500.

COMING UP!
Summer Culinary Workshop for boys and girls aged 6-10 - Apr 20-21 or May 11-12 (8:30 am-12 nn) and Young People's Cook-In for teens - Apr. 22-24 or May 13-15 (9 am - 1pm)

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108, or e-mail us at *mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph*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CAKE DECORATING; SAUSAGE MAKING; COOKING & BAKING LESSONS

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DEMONSTRATION-STUDENT PARTICIPATION METHOD. ALL COURSES ARE FOR BEGINNERS & NON-BEGINNERS. HANDS-ON IN ALL COURSES. FEES INCLUSIVE OF INGREDIENTS

Sylvia Reynoso-Gala
GOLD MEDALIST Academia de Gastronomos Madrid, Spain - 1964

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

Leni Reynoso-Araullo
Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A., 1974 under Martha & Stanley Wilton
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder with Edna, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

LEARN AND EARN! PRACTICAL, EASY, EXACT RECIPES

MAR 8 MON 2:30 TO 6:15 PM - LEARN THE SOFTEST SIOPAO DOUGH EVER! THE MOST DELICIOUS SIOMAI KUA PAO (PEKING SIOPAO WITH MEAT FILLING & PICKELED MUSTASAL FISH HEAD SOUP CAMARON RELLENADO GUKIAM WITH RADISH SALAD STEAMED LAPULAPU **P 980.**

MAR 9 TUE 2:30 TO 5:30 PM MONEY-MAKING CHINESE FAST-FOOD RECIPES WONTON NOODLE SOUP MAKI SOUP FRIED LOMI KUCHAY DUMPLINGS PORK CURRY OVER RICE SHRIMP FRIED RICE **P 980.**

MAR 10 WED 2:00 TO 5:30 PM 7 MONEY MAKING SAUSAGE COURSE I - GERMAN (BRATWURST) HUNGARIAN KIELBASA MEXICAN L.A. GREEK SHEBOYGAN BRATS OF WISCONSIN CHORIZO MACAO BAGUIO SAUSAGES BONUS ATCHARA AND HOT POTATO SALAD **P 980 *BY LENI R. ARAULLO.***

MAR 11 THUR 2:30 TO 6:00 PM 6 NEW EASY BAKESHOP BREAD III STEVEN MARTIN'S HONGKONG STYLE PUMPKIN RAISIN BREAD WHOLE WHEAT HONEY LOAF SPANISH BREAD, VERY SOFT DINNER ROLLS HOMEMADE PITA BREAD ORANGE BUBBLE RINGS IN BUNDT PAN **P 980.**

MAR 13 SAT 1:00 TO 5:00 PM FREE LIVELIHOOD COOKING DEMO AT SAN MIGUEL MAIN CAFETERIA, MANDALUYONG BRING ANY ONE WRAPPER OF MONTEREY / MAGNOLIA CHICKEN / PUREFOODS / MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER OR CHEESES STAR / DARI CREME FIRST COME FIRST SERVE FOR DETAILS CALL SMFG - 671 9878 TO 91 LOC 405 ***FIVE (5) RECIPES BY SYLVIA AND ERNEST.***

MARCH 14, 21, 28 & APR 4 4 SUNDAYS, 9:00 TO 5:00 P.M. - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING, P 2,000. INCLUDING INGREDIENTS LUNCH AND SNACK (EXCEPT DECORATING MATERIALS LIKE PIPING BAGS TIPS ETC AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CULINARY STUDIO OR BRING YOUR OWN)

LESSON 1 FLUFFY BUTTER CREAM ICING TECHNIQUES IN COLORINGBORDERS SHELL, ROPE, STAR LEAF ZIGZAG E MOTION FLEUR DE LIZ MAKE GARLANDS AND SWAGS BASKET WEAVING, LATTICE DESIGN 12 DIFFERENT DESIGNS FOR TOP AND SIDES OF CAKE DIRECT PIPING OF CAKE OF ROSE BOUQUET SWEET PEA CARNATION

LESSON 2 5 KINDS OF ICING INCLUDING MARSHMALLOW ROYAL TO MAKE SUGAR FLOWERS ON NAILS TOOTHPICK, FLORAL WIRE LEARN SUGAR MOLDING CAKES FAN BOOTIES BASKET CRIB HEART MARY'S HEAD THE LION KING DVD MUSICAL DESIGN CAKE TWO ADULT SEXY CAKES EACH STUDENT MUST BRING TRAY/BOX TO TAKE HOME CAKES

LESSON 3 MARZIPAN (FREE HAND) MOLDING AND PAINTING OF FRUITS FIGURES AND VEGETABLES LEARN THE MARZIPAN ROSE, FIGURE AND FRUIT PIPING DECORATE DIFFERENT DESIGNS ON MUFFINS FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS WHICH HOTELS AND LUXURY LINERS SERVE

LESSON 4 HOW TO PREPARE DEBUTANT/ WEDDING CAKES TIERD STACKED ETC EACH STUDENT WILL DESIGN AND DECORATE A WEDDING CAKE (STYRO TO BRING HOME PLS BRING TRAY-BOX ***BY LENI R. ARAULLO.***

MAR. 16 TUE 2:30 TO 5:30 PM 6 NEW HOT SHOT CHICKEN RECIPES TENDER ROAST MAGNOLIA CHICKEN WITH SAUSAGE - APPLE STUFFING, CRISPY CHICKEN ROLLS CRUNCHY CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS WITH CREAMY GRAVY BAKED NUT STUFFED CHICKEN BREASTS, CHICKEN CROQUETTES WITH CHEEZY SAUCE, CHICKEN BREASTS WITH MUSHROOM GRAVY ON FRENCH BAKER'S WHOLE WHEAT BREAD **P 980.**

MAR 17 WED. 2:00 TO 5:30 PM 6 MONEY MAKING SAUSAGE COURSES 2, P980. CHINESE SWEET SAUSAGE (LOP CHONG ALSO USED FOR SIOPAO FILING) PHIL ANISADO LONGANIZA JAPANESE CHICKEN SHITAKE (MUSHROOM) SAUSAGE PERUVIAN HOT LINKS CHEKOREE INDIAN SAUSAGE SMOKED BRATWURST ***BY LENI R. ARAULLO WHO TAUGHT AND SOLD HAM & SAUSAGES TO HOTELS & RESTAURANTS SINCE 1963***

MAR 18 - THURS - 2:30 TO 5:30 PM 10 MONEY MAKING CHEWY SQUARES FOR BUSINESS OR GIFTS. WALNUT BAR MANGO BARS LEMON BARS BANANA CHIP BARS PRUNE BARS RICOA CHOCOLATE CHIP BARS LEMONY NUT BARS DATE NUT SQUARE AND CHOCO MERINGUE BARS **P 980.**

MAR 19 FRI 2:30 TO 6:00 PM IDEAL FOR CATERERS AND PARTY GIVERS. THE BEST OVEN BAKED PAELLA ROAST STUFFED MAGNOLIA JUMBO CHICKEN PASTEL DE LENGUA CALLOS MADRILENA BLACK FOREST #2 **P 980.**

MAR 23 TUE 2:30 TO 6:00 PM - 6 NEW YUMMY CAKES / GOODIES! BANANA NUT CRUNCH CAKE WITH MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER ICING WALNUT FUDGE CHOCO CAKE WITH CHOCO GLAZE, MOULDED BAVARIAN CREAM PEACH CUSTARD TART WITH WALNUT CRUMB CRUST CHEWY CHOCO CLUSTERS MACAPUNO FRUIT COCKTAIL CAKE WITH CUSTARD FILLING AND BOILED ICING **P 980.**

MAR 24 WED - 2:00 TO 5:30 PM MONEY MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE 3, P980. LEARN [illegible] FAVORITE FOOT LONG HOTDOGS, BEEF SAUSAGE JERKY USING [illegible] CASING USED FOR HOTDOG MAKING WHOLE CORNED BEEF SERVED IN FIVE STAR HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS PORK HAMONADO & BEEF DE RECADO THE BEST PAMPANGO PORK TOCINO LONGANIZA LUCBAN **P 980.**

MAR 25 THURS 2:30 TO 5:30 PM 7 NEW RESTAURANT FAVORITES! RED BARBECUED BEEF SHORT RIBS TOP RICE FRIED ONION RINGS POTATO PANCAKES CRAB CAKES WITH TARTAR SAUCE SIZZLING HAWAIIAN HAM STEAKS MEAT BALLS WITH CHEEZY SAUCE ON PASTA CURRIED MONTEREY BEEF ON PITA BREAD WITH YOGURT **P 980.**

MAR 26 FRI 2:30 TO 5:00 PM POPULAR CAFE FAVOURITES, BEST EVER CARROT & WALNUT CAKE WITH CREAM CHEESE FROSTING TEXAS STYLE CORN MUFFINS STREUSEL TOPPED MUFFINS CHOCO CRUMB CAKE MUFFINS BLUEBERRY CRUMB TOPPED MUFFINS **P 980.** IDEAL FOR HOME BUSINESS

MAR 27, APR 3 & 17 — 3 SATURDAYS 9:00 TO 5:00 PM FONDANT ICING & GUMPASTE FLOWERS COURSE. P2,500 INCLUDING INGREDIENTS LUNCH & SNACK

LESSON 1 DAISY TULIP SAMPAGUITA APPLE BLOSSOM & SWEET PEA MAKE DIFF KINDS OF LEAVES STAMENS CALYX FOR FUTURE USE

LESSON 2 CAKE (STYRO) COVERED WITH FONDANT ICING & 'CUT GLASS' TECHNIQUE MAKE GUMAMELA LILIES STEMPHANOTIS CHRYSANTHEMUM CARNATION DAFFODIL WILTON ROSE VICTORIA ROSE

LESSON 3 ORCHID GUMPASTE RIBBONS AND SWAGS PREPARATION AND DECORATION OF FONDANT WEDDING CAKE (FOR TAKE HOME) ***BY LENI R. ARAULLO.***

MAR 30 TUE 2:30 TO 5:30PM CHINESE COOKING 1 - BUCHI W SESAME SEEDS. BEEF W BROCCOLI SHREDDED PORK W TENGANG DAGA W ONION, LEMON CHICKEN FRIED CRAB MEAT W MILK ON CRISPY NOODLES STEAMED CHICKEN W HAM IN GINGER SAUCE BONELESS CHICKEN BREASTS IN BLACK BEAN SAUCE IDEAL FOR RICE TOPPINGS **P 980.**

MAR 31 WED 2:30 TO 6:15PM LIGHT & AIRY ENSAYMADAS. CHEESE ROLLS SPECIAL EGG PAN DE SAL, PAN DE SAL W FILLING CINNAMON ROLLS BREAD BAKING MADE EASY **P 980.**

APR 1 FRI 2:30 TO 5:30 PM - MONEY-MAKING BAKESHOP CAKES FOR BEGINNERS. P 980. COFFEE CRUNCH CHIFFON CAKE W WHIPPING CREAM ICING LENI'S #1 SELLING PRUNE WALNUT CAKE W MAGNOLIA GOLD RUM BUTTER ICING *ZENAIDA NICHOLAS'* VERY LIGHT BLUEBERRY "TRUMP'S FAVORITE" CHEESE CAKE HOMEMADE RUM CAKE W FRESH ORANGE [illegible]

APR 2 FRI 2:30 TO 6:15 PM - EASY BREAD-BAKING FOR WOULD BE BAKESHOP OWNERS! LEARN & EARN NOW AMERICAN TASTY BREAD ***MORELLA & ERNEST*** BIG PAN DE SAL HONEY BREAD BUTTER BREAD CHEESE BREAD SUPERSOFT CARMELITE BREAD IN A BUNDT PAN **P 980.**

WATCH OUT FOR OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE IN OUR APRIL 1 AD

ATTENTION! BAGUIO RESIDENTS

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VALEDICTORIAN I H M E S INTERNATIONAL HOTEL SCHOOL, UNITED KINGDOM -1992
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

DUNKIN' DONUTS Donut de Fruta P99 a dozen New Flavor! lychee
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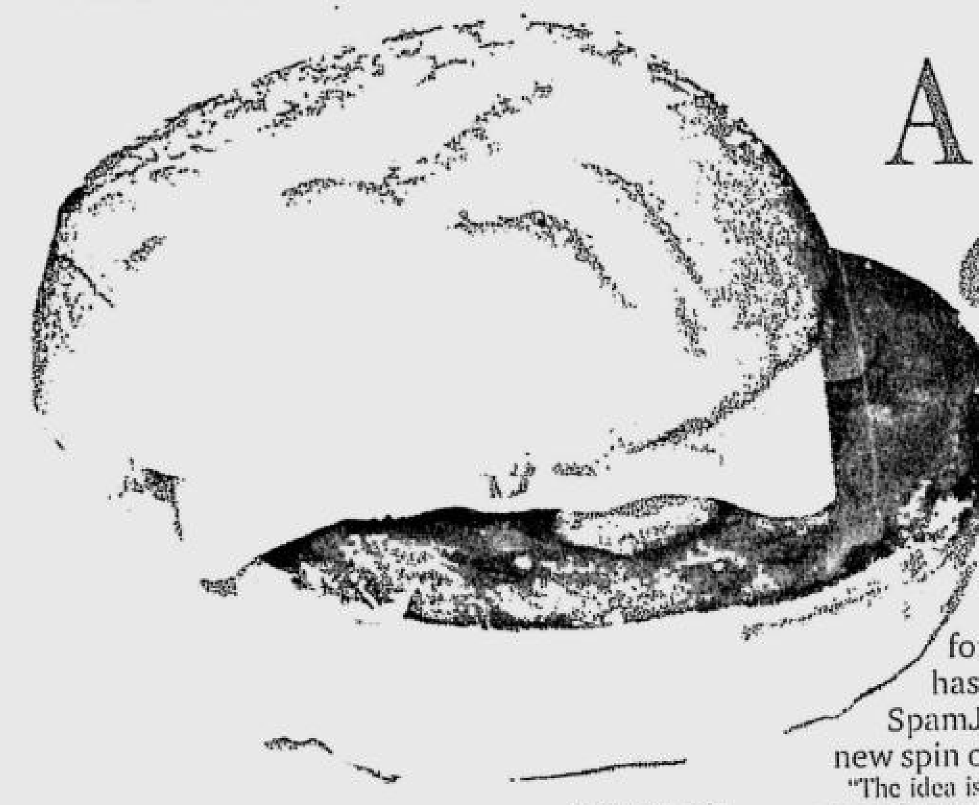
A Pinoy favorite gets exclusive treatment



SPAM Burger

The Philippines is the venue for the pilot launching of SpamJam Café

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

WHEN it comes to traditional comfort food, Mom suddenly has some stiff competition. SpamJam Café is putting a new spin on a family favorite.

"The idea is global comfort with high-end appeal," says entrepreneur Philip Abadilla, managing director of Store Café Enterprises, Inc., which put up SpamJam Café together with Purefoods-Hormel. "It's a retro look at classic entrees."

Popular

A certified Spam luncheon meat fanatic, Abadilla says he broached the idea of having an outlet exclusively for this luncheon meat to Purefoods-Hormel, the local partner of Hormel Foods USA. Thus, SpamJam Café was born.

"Spam's popularity is evident when Filipino *balikbayans* bring it home as *pasalubong* to relatives and friends," he says. Because of the Pinoy's affinity and passion for good food, Hormel chose the Philippines as the venue for the pilot launching of

A PINOY/ D3

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS AND ADVANCED CULINARY STUDIES

Culinary enthusiasts will have a great time attending this year's Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center workshop classes. New course curriculum for extensive learning experience has been introduced and ample time on hands-on workshops has been devoted for a more in-depth understanding of each course. Enrol now.

Catering: Mar. 6 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Technical and legal aspects of operations, costing, quantification, portion control, licensing requirements, proper hygiene and sanitation and safety aspects in food preparation, buffet table setup flow and sourcing. Actual preparation of catering dishes such as Morcon, Baked Macaroni, All-meat Paella, Galantina, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, special fried rice and dessert P1,750

Watering and Bartending Basic: March 10-12 (Wed-Fri) 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Workshop on waitering etiquettes, table setup, dining service standards, napkin folding, types of wine glasses, mixing and serving of drinks, classification of wines and spirits. P2,000

Pizza Workshop: Mar. 13 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For home and commercial business. Lecture on technology of making pizza crust, toppings, and sauces with actual production costing and portion control. P1,500

Korean Cooking: Mar. 20 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 3 kinds of kimchi, Chap-che (Noodle dish), Pajun (omelet), Bi-bim Bap (hot mixed rice), Bul ko kee and Milchi. P800.

Restaurant Operations: Mar. 26 & 27 (Fri-Sat) 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. 2-day full of intensive seminar to a profitable business operations with emphasis on cost control, food costing and pricing and all the aspects from labor to menu planning. P3,000.

Fastfood Bestsellers: April 3 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Chicken Caldereta, Pork Estofado, Lomi, Fresh Eggroll, Embutido, Chicken Pork BBQ 3-way and Special Palabok. P800.

Barchow (A salute to the graduates!): Apr. 3 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Baked Tahong, Hot Shrimp Gambas, Tuna Balls, Fish Kinilaw, Pork Sisig, Nilasing na Hipon, Calamares, Mushroom in Garlic Butter, Chicken Feet P800.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON. (Limited enrolment, pre-registration required)

Cake Decorating (Basic): Mar. 6 & 13 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating; coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making, bunching and motif, and basic fondant. Free decorating tips P3,000

Cooking 2: Mar. 9-12 (T-F) 1:30 - 6 p.m. Review of basic culinary principles. Introduction to the cuisines of the world, menu planning, culinary arithmetic, food hygiene, sanitation and safety standards in food preparations. Actual workshop on Asian, Western and European dishes. Graduation cocktails. P4,500.

Baking II (Advanced): Mar. 20 & 27 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Baking ingredients and their functions, baker's percentage/math, Actual preparation of specialty cakes, pastries and bakery products. Bonus feature: baking magic with prepared mixes. P3,000.

Baking I (Basic): March. 23-26 or April 13 -16 (T-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Basics of baking including techniques applied to the preparation of pies, quickbreads, cakes and more. P2,500 with free cookbook.

Cooking I (Basic): Mar. 30,31, April 1-2 or April 20-23(Tue-Fri) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Proper Hygiene; Sanitation and Safety; Nutrition and Nutritional Cooking; Stocks, Soups and Sauces and its 1001 application to poultry, fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables, common herbs and spices; Purchasing; Marketing and Proper Storage; Menu Planning; Simple Garnish and Plate Presentation. Plus actual cooking workshop on the preparation of dishes from appetizer to dessert. P3,500.

COMING UP!
Summer Culinary Workshop for boys and girls aged 6-10 - Apr 20-21 or May 11-12 (8:30 am-12 nn) and Young People's Cook-In for teens - Apr. 22-24 or May 13-15 (9 am - 1pm)

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108, or e-mail us at *mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph*

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MARCH 04 THURSDAY

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LESSON 3 MARZIPAN [illegible] FRUITS, FIGURES AND VEGETABLE [illegible] MARZIPAN ROSE, FIGURE AND [illegible] DECORATE DIFFERENT DESIGNS ON MUFFINS FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVING WHICH HOTEL AND LUXURY LINERS SERVE LESSON 4 HOW TO PREPARE DEBUTANT [illegible] STACKED ETC. EACH [illegible] BY LENI R. ARAULLO.

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MAR 23 TUE 2:30 TO 6:00 PM - 6 NEW YUMMY CAKES GOODIES! [illegible] P 980.

MAR 24 WED - 2:00 TO 5:30 PM MONEY MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE 3, P980 [illegible] P 980.

MAR 25 THURS 2:30 TO 5:30 PM 7 NEW RESTAURANT FAVORITES! [illegible] P 980.

MAR 26 FRI 2:30 TO 5:00 PM POPULAR CAFE FAVOURITES, BEST EVER CARROT & WALNUT CAKE [illegible] P 980.

MAR 27, APR 3 & 17 — 3 SATURDAYS 9:00 TO 5:00 PM FONDANT ICING & GUMPASTE FLOWERS COURSE. P2,500 [illegible] LESSON 1 [illegible] LESSON 2 [illegible] LESSON 3 [illegible] BY LENI R. ARAULLO.

MAR 30 TUE 2:30 TO 5:30PM CHINESE COOKING 1 - BUCHI W. SESAME SEEDS [illegible] P 980.

MAR 31 WED 2:30 TO 6:15PM LIGHT & AIRY ENSAYMADAS. [illegible] P 980.

APR 1 FRI 2:30 TO 5:30 PM - MONEY-MAKING BAKESHOP CAKES FOR BEGINNERS. P 980. [illegible]

APR 2 FRI 2:30 TO 6:15 PM - EASY BREAD BAKING FOR WOULD BE BAKESHOP OWNERS! [illegible] MORELLA & ERNEST [illegible] P 980.

WATCH OUT FOR OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE IN OUR APRIL 1 AD

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VALEDICTORIAN [illegible] INTERNATIONAL HOTEL SCHOOL, UNITED KINGDOM 1992
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Cool salads for hot days

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

TEMPERATURES are rising again and preparing meals in the kitchen can be quite uncomfortable. So here we have salads that are easy to prepare but loaded with flavor and much needed fiber. As side dishes, they can be paired off with roast chicken or barbecue that can be homemade or bought fragrant and hot from a nearby barbecue stall.

Cool and Spicy Cucumber Rounds

1 pc cucumber, sliced thinly into half rounds
½ c vinegar (*paombong* or cane)
¼ c water
¾ c granulated white sugar
1 tbsp corn oil
Fine salt to taste
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Combine the ingredients in a glass or stainless bowl. Keep chilled. *Singkamas,* which is currently abundant in the wet market, can also be used.

Ripe Mango Salsa

3 c ripe mango balls
¼ c chopped tomatoes
1 tbsp chopped spring onions or leeks
1 tbsp corn oil
2 tbsp calamansi juice
Fine salt to taste
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Combine the ingredients in a glass or stainless bowl. Keep chilled.

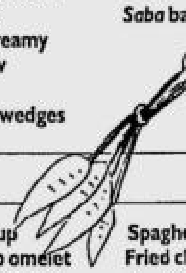
Fruity and Creamy Coleslaw

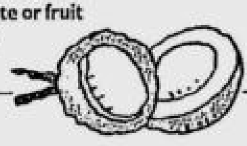
1 c shredded cabbage, blanched
½ c carrots, sliced into thin strips
¼ c well-drained crushed pineapple
¼ c raisins
2 tbsp chopped spring onions or leeks
3 tbsp white sugar
½ c mayonnaise
½ c all-purpose cream

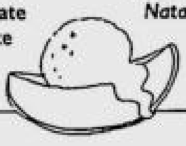
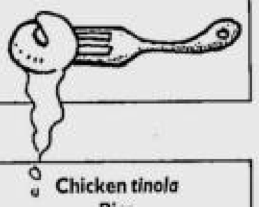
Combine the ingredients in a glass or stainless bowl. Keep chilled.

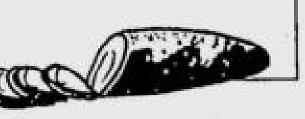
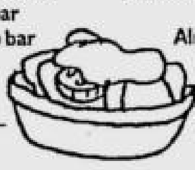
Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City and in key provincial cities. For classes in Cebu this week, text 0919-3330802. Call 7217735 for Manila classes or e-mail dorothyferreria@skyinet.net.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Cereal and milk Buttered toasts Soft boiled eggs Spanish sardines Coffee, chocolate or iced tea Papaya	Breaded pork chops with cheese filling Carrot and broccoli stir-fry Fruity and creamy coleslaw Rice Chilled melon wedges	Chicken *adobo* with *gata* Vegetable chopsuey Rice *Saba* bananas in syrup
TUESDAY	Rice Pan grilled spam with sugar Pork and beans Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice	Clear soup Crab or shrimp omelet with *patola* and togue Rice Ripe mango ala mode	Spaghetti puttanesca Fried chicken lollipops Garlic toast Chocolate mousse
WEDNESDAY	Hotcake with cheddar cheese bits Maple flavored bacon Coffee, chocolate or iced tea Bananas with cottage cheese	Creamy beef steak with onion rings Buttered string beans Rice Flavor of the month ice cream	Cream of mushroom soup Caesar salad Chicken paella Fresh fruit platter
THURSDAY	Oatmeal *Pandesal* Omelet with spring onions and cheese Vienna sausage Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice	Vegetable tempura with garlic mayo dip Pancit canton *Mais con hielo*	Pork *afritada* with potatoes and bell pepper Rice *Buko* gelatin
FRIDAY	Tuna sandwich spread Toasted whole wheat *pandesal* Cheddar cheese Coffee, chocolate or carrot juice	*Monggo* soup Pan grilled *maya maya* fish steak Ripe mango salsa *Nata de coco*	Pasta with creamy pesto Pizza with Spanish sardines and cheese Melon ala mode
SATURDAY	Croissant or *ensaymada* Pan grilled *longganiza* Native white cheese Coffee, chocolate or iced tea Ripe mangoes with cottage cheese	*Daing na bangus* *Adobong kangkong* Cool and spicy cucumber rounds Rice *Turon*	Chicken *tinola* Rice Mocha roll
SUNDAY	Garlic rice Chicken tocino Fried eggs Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea Fresh fruit salad	Grilled chicken Grilled pork *liempo* Grilled fish steaks Salad bar *Halo halo* bar	Restaurant style steamed fish with oyster sauce Steamed baby *bok choy* Rice Almond jelly





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Regional Champions
De La Salle - Lipa Batangas (Luzon)
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Special Awards will be given by the following CGP2004 Program Partners!
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Monday, March 8, 2004
8:00am to 12:30pm
Philippine Trade & Training Center
Roxas Boulevard corner
Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City
Gates open to the public at 8:00am
ADMISSION IS FREE!

Seminar for food industry managers

PROACTIVE Center for Training (Pact) will hold a Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop 12 nn-5 p.m., Mar. 8-18 (excluding weekends), at Ipanema Bar and Restaurant, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

The workshop is open to restaurateurs, hotel people, resort and canteen operators and those planning to go into the food business.

Reservations are being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Call 6871787 or 0916-8226053. Seminar fee is P5,000 per participant inclusive of field trip to equipment and food suppliers in Metro Manila, manual, handouts, snacks, certificate of completion and workshop materials.

The training will cover such topics as planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment; hygiene and sanitation; human resource development; and cost control among others. Facilitators will include food service consultants, restaurant and hotel executives, and professors of hotel and restaurant management.

Jazz up your cakes

WHAT'S a cake without the trimmings? How a cake looks is as important as how it tastes. So wouldn't it be neat if one could learn to whip up these delightful works of edible art?

Yes, you could also create wonderful designs for your own special cake. The Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center will hold a Basic Cake Decorating lecture-workshop on March 6 and 13 (Saturday) from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Students will be guided in every aspect of cake decorating—from designing to coloring, templating, and putting on icing of different types: boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate and sugar.

Enrollees will get tips on creating different trimmings like borders, jelly lettering and flowers, which, in turn, may be crafted and placed separately or in bunches.

An Advanced Baking class is scheduled on March 20 and 27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., where you can harness your baking prowess.

Meanwhile, food enthusiasts are invited to join the Advanced Cooking Workshop of the World of Cuisine, March 9-12 (Tuesday to Friday) with actual workshop on preparation of Asian, Western and European dishes. Basic Cooking Workshop is set on March 16-19 (Tuesday to Friday), 9 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be tips on marketing, sanitation, nutrition and safety. Students will learn to prepare a variety of dishes, from meat to poultry, fish and vegetables.

Call 8921185/ 8925011 loc. 108 or visit the Maya Kitchen at the 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Rd.), Makati City or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

Toys from Disney show

MCDONALD'S latest line of Happy Meal toys, action figures and spy accessories from the Disney Channel's animated television series "Kim Possible," is available until March 6.

The toys include Kimmunicator, a magnetic drawing tablet with flip-up lid and stylus; Jet Skate Kim; Drakken's Helicopter with grappling hook and whirling propeller; Ron Stoppable that shoots arrows and has pants that fall; Shego; and Monkey Fist.

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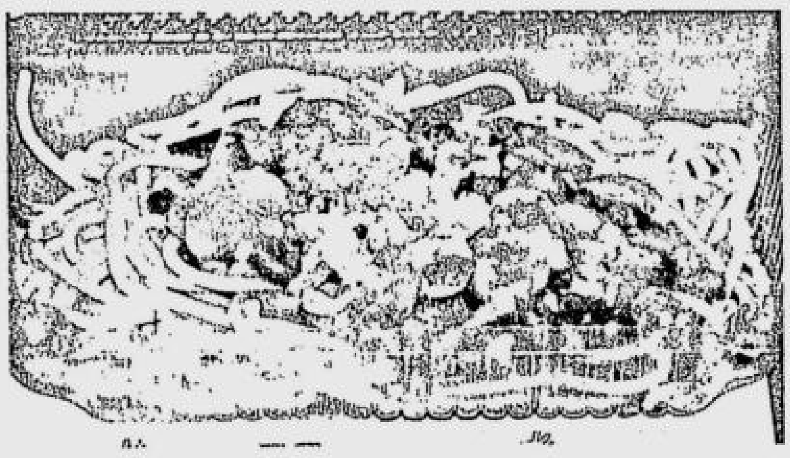
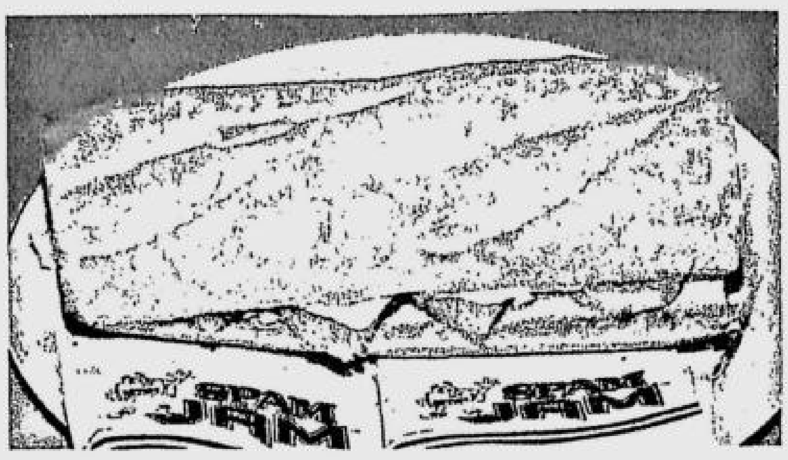


SPAM Spaghetti



SPAM Hero

SPAM Caesar Salad

A Pinoy favorite gets exclusive treatment

From page D1

SpamJam Café. Selling an average of 2.75 million lbs annually is a feat that few countries can match.

"This is why a Spam restaurant is easy to market here. The first of its kind in the world, the café is where families and busy people can go every time they feel a craving for luncheon meat," Abadilla says.

Located at the 2/L of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati, the 40-seater SpamJam Café (tel. 7527294) is painted with red, yellow and blue to pay homage to the classic luncheon meat packaging. "The layout was designed to make diners experience the American treat in an American-like setting," Abadilla says.

Versatile

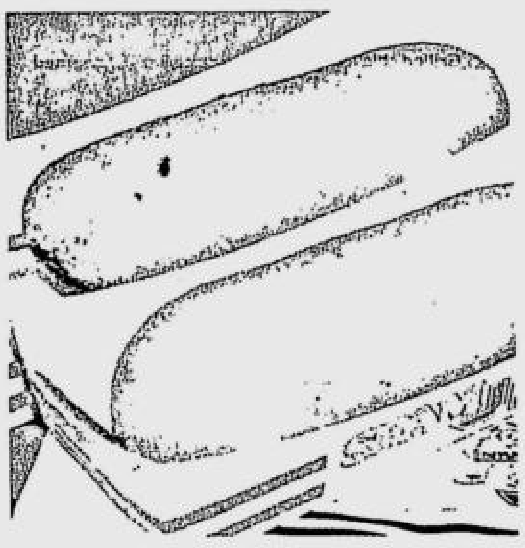
The SpamJam menu, which has been crafted by a menu development team, reflects the versatility of the luncheon meat. "They made sure that the meals are perfectly attuned to the Filipino palate," Abadilla says.

The menu features Spam Burger, Spam Hero, SpamJam Club, Spam and Egg, Spam melt, Wranglers Hotdogitty Dawg, Spam Spaghetti, Spam Baked Macaroni, Wranglers Korn Dawg, Spam Poppers, Spam Nuggets, Cream Sticks, Spam Caesar Salad, and Curly Fries. The SpamJam Lunch Box offers two choices: Box A has Sweetened Spam with fried egg and garlic rice while Box B contains Breaded Spam with egg and garlic rice and a choice of barbecue or sweet and sour sauces.

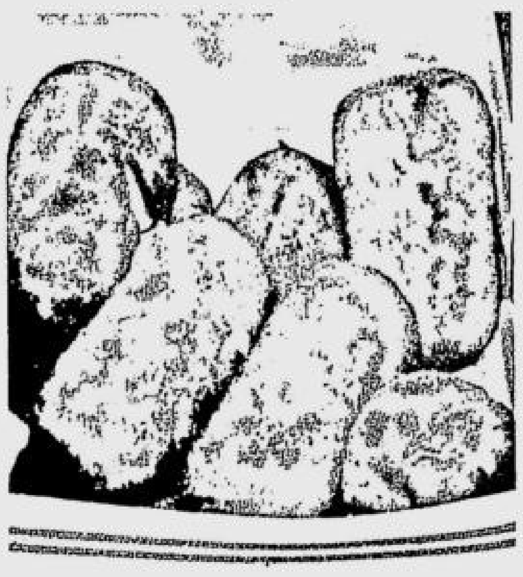
Aside from such delicious meals, the restaurant also mirrors a trend Hormel has observed in our country. According to AC Nielsen Philippines' survey, convenience, affordability and the increased incidence of working mothers have made eating out, take-out and home deliveries more practical family choices than cooking their own meals.

"SpamJam serves as Hormel's answer to the changing preference of Filipino families as it offers instant feast without the fuss," Abadilla says. "Besides, people are looking for food that isn't far from what they get at home."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



WRANGLERS Korn Dawg



SPAM Nuggets

HILDA Tolentino, Hormel's international sales export manager; Philip Abadilla, SpamJam Café owner; and Michael Woolsey, USDA-Agricultural Trade Office director

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Italian breakfast offerings you can't refuse

DINING OUT

ITALIANNI'S now offers breakfast daily, 7-10 a.m., at its Greenbelt branch. The menu includes Potato Frittata Italiano (potato frittata served with ham, pepperoni, bell pepper and fresh mushrooms topped with mozzarella cheese and pomodoro sauce), Eggs Benedict Florentine (two poached eggs on sauteed spinach, ham and soft rolls topped with Hollandaise sauce and served with sauteed herbed potatoes), Italian Sausage Roesti Breakfast (Swiss potato pancake topped with sliced Italian sausages, two eggs) and Continental Breakfast (two eggs with a choice of Italian sausage, bacon strips or smoked ham served with Tuscan rolls, sauteed herbed potatoes and fresh fruits)

UCC Vienna Café features the Salmon and Spinach Macaroni Gratin, a combination of fresh salmon, spinach and cheese poured over penne noodles baked in white sauce. UCC is located in Tomas Morato, QC; Connecticut St., Greenhills; and The Podium, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

PINOYDON Rice Bowls is now open at 3/L, Eastwood CyberMall at the podium of CyberOne office building in Eastwood City. Its bestsellers include Aligue Maki, Tinapa Maki, Kani Ensalada, Bangus Belly Katsu, Aligue Yakisoba, Pinoydon Fried Chicken, Bistekdon, Bellydon and Banana Surprise.

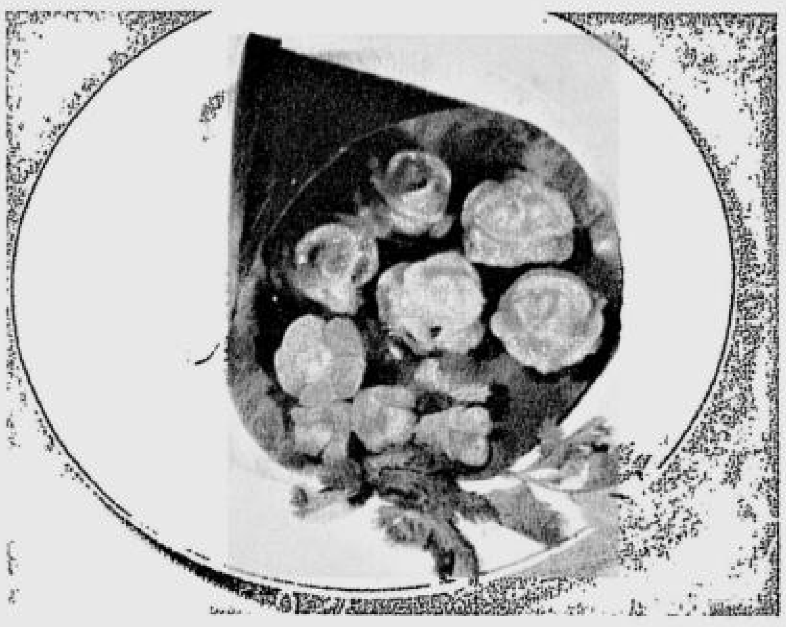
THE 1900 Tapas Bar and Bistro offers a complimentary glass of Sangria for every *tapas* buffet until March 31. The buffet features Almejas al Ajillo, Salpicado, Chorizo Pamplona, Smoked Salmon, Boquerones Barcelona, Huevos Flamenca, Gambas Fritos, Tortilla Espanola, Chicharones, Champinones al Ajillo and cheese platters. Call 5216682.

PLANTATION Bay Resort and Spa presents several dining options at its three restaurants. Kilimanjaro Kafé offers Pacific Northwest, Mexican, Chinese and Filipino cuisines. Fiji Restaurant serves Pacific Rim food and sushi. Palermo has pasta, meat and seafood. Call 8445024.

TAPAS Tapas Bar and Restaurant in Ortigas offers Spanish Tapas, Paella, Callos, Lengua al Jerez, Lapu Lapu en Salsa Verde, Bacalao con Garbanzos, Huevos a la Flamenca, Chorizo con Arroz Ajo y Huevo, Crepes de Marisco and Pasta Marinara. Tapas Tapas is located at G/F, Strata 2000 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center. Call 6874328 or 6877989.

HUA LAN presents Chinese dishes like two kinds of soup, dim sum, six kinds of a la carte and three kinds of dessert. Hua Lan is located in Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati; Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan. Call 8967828 or 7264442.

AZZURRO features a set dinner every Wednesday night. It includes Rosemary and Lemon Foccacia, Roasted Prawn Soup with Saffron Cream and Tarragon, Salad of Romaine Lettuce, Parmesan, Pine Nuts and Orange's Segment, Grilled Chicken Saltimbocca with Italian Sausage and Smoked Tomato Risotto and Tiramisu with Roasted Pears. Call 8890569 or 8842239.



SHAPED Dumplings with Minced Chicken is one of the appetizer offerings at the ongoing promo Appetizers of the Royal at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Benjarong Thai restaurant on March 16-31. Call 8673333.

THE BELLEVUE Hotel offers Paella Valenciana and Salmon con Salsa de Anchoas, Kare-Kare and Pork Piña Hamonado, Risotto con Scampi and Spaghetti Vongole, Simmered Lapu-Lapu Fillet with Shiitake and Tonkatsu, Sauteed Curry Prawns in Coconut Milk and Stir-fried Mussels, Roasted Chicken with Orange Butter Sauce and Bean Curd. Call 7718181.

DON HENRICO'S features the new Asian Hot Beef Salad, a mix of fresh lettuce, shredded cabbage, julienne carrots and cucumber topped with stir-fried beef strips. Don Henrico's restaurants are located at Pedro Gil corner A. Mabini, Manila; Festival Supermall, Alabang; Jupiter Place or Glorietta 4, Makati; Brick Road, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall; Tomas Morato or Banawe Street or West Avenue, QC; Entertainment Center of Ayala Center Cebu; along Session Road and LG/F, SM City Baguio.

POTENCE or Steak Flambé, a signature dish of chef Vicky Rose Pacheco, is grilled beef tenderloin hung on metal gallows then flambéed with brandy and served with three special sauces and a choice of pineapple rice, linguine cooked in olive oil and garlic, or baked potato. It is the highlight of Chateau 1771's 15th anniversary. Chateau 1771 is at ADB Avenue cor. J. Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 6317340/7341.

More cooking classes for beginners

CLASSES for the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts' beginner's series will include bread- and merienda-making.

The schedule follows:

March 5—Delicious Breads (all new): Garlic and Herb, Cheese Bread, Onion Bread, Delicious Boston Brown, Raisin with Rosemary and Cinnamon, Basil and Tomato Pizza Loaf

March 6—Thai 101 (part 2): Phad Thai, Crisp Fried Fish with Tamarind Sauce, Shrimp Cakes with Sweet Chili Sauce, Red Duck Curry, Sticky Rice with Mangoes

March 8—Authentic Spanish Tapas (all new): Angulas, Gambas al Ajillo, Gambas a la Plancha, Tortilla Española, Boquerones, Croquettas, etc. Learn and serve 14 delicious tiny dishes

March 10—Reggie's Version of the Filipino Merienda: Truffled Champorado with Bacalao Chips, Gourmet Palabok with Mixed Crisp Toppings, Milk Fish Lumpia, Guinataang Dinuguan with Puto Bread, Gourmet Guinataan, Gourmet Stuffed Palitaw

March 12—Gourmet Pancit: The Art of Making Delicious Pancit: Pancit Canton with Scallops, Pancit Bihon Guisado with Chinese Asado and Roasted Duck, Pancit Mami in Lechon Manok Broth, Lang-lang with Fresh Spring Vegetables, Gourmet Style Pancit Habhab

All classes are held 10:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. at the 3/F Bon Appetit, Edsa Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong.-

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744, 0917-8399888.

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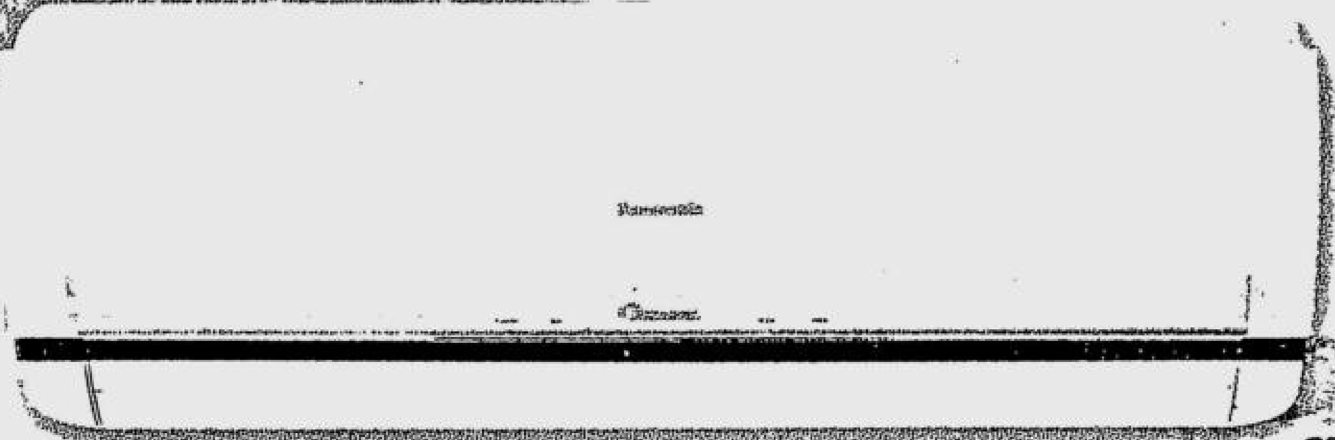

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See posters for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0842 Series of 2004.

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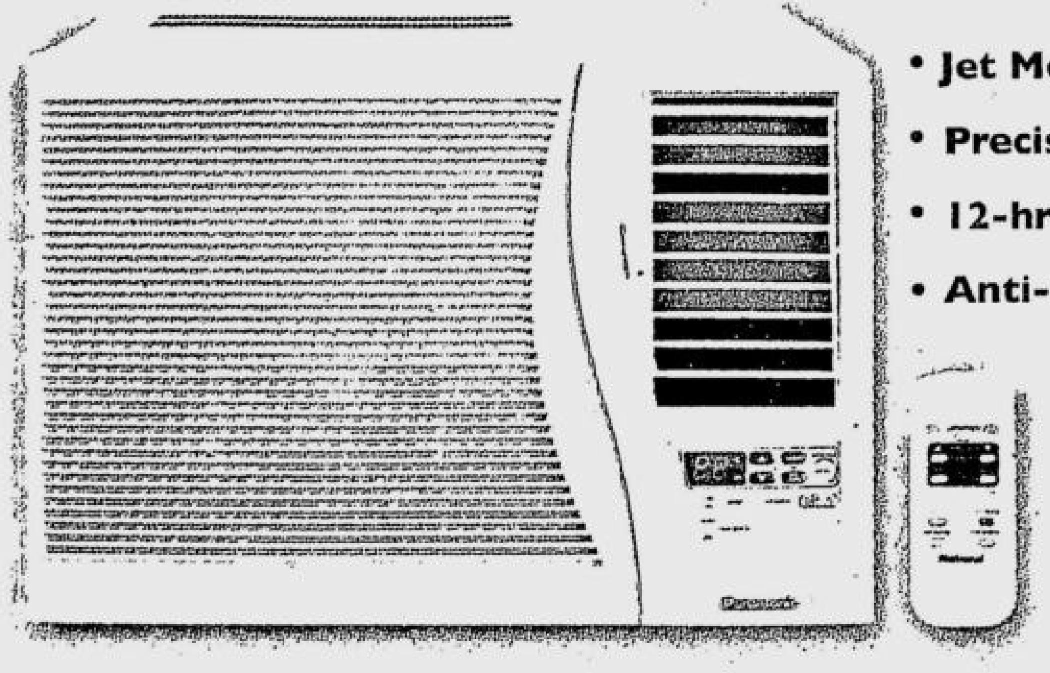

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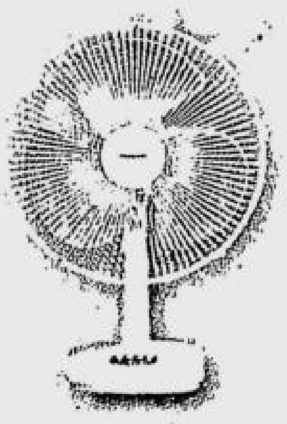

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